

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the Queensland Inquiry into Personal E-Mobility Devices
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To whom it may concern

Submitted by: Georgina Cassels

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Re: The Urgent Need for Stricter Regulation of E-Scooters and Personal Mobility Devices in Public Spaces

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned pedestrian and member of the Queensland community who regularly walks on public footpaths, shared pathways, and local parks. I wish to express my deep concern about the growing danger posed by the widespread and poorly regulated use of personal e-mobility devices (PMDs), in particular e-scooters.

In my personal experience, I encounter e-scooters more than 50% of the time when out walking. These devices are overwhelmingly operated by young people — often unlicensed, helmetless, and traveling at extremely unsafe speeds. I have been involved in multiple near-miss incidents simply while walking or getting out of my parked car. These have occurred:

- While stepping around a dog, child, bush turkey, or even dog droppings on a footpath, only to have an e-scooter suddenly appear at speed, weaving between pedestrians;
- While opening my car door at night, when a rider without lights or helmet nearly collided with it at high speed, with only millimetres to spare.

These devices move silently and are often operated without any regard for shared public space. They do not give warning, they rarely slow down, and their speed and agility mean that by the time one notices them, it is often too late to move safely.

Beyond personal safety concerns, I understand that hospitals and emergency departments are seeing a rise in injuries caused by e-scooters — to both riders and innocent bystanders. This adds further strain to an already stretched healthcare system.

I strongly urge the committee to consider the following regulatory reforms:

1. **Prohibit all e-scooter use on public footpaths** — these devices are not compatible with safe pedestrian use.
2. **Apply the same rules as mopeds or motorbikes** — including mandatory C-class licenses, helmets, lights, and insurance for all PMD riders using public roads.
3. **Introduce age limits and enforceable penalties** — to ensure only responsible and trained individuals are operating these machines in public spaces.

4. **Require registration of private e-scooters** — so that misuse can be tracked and penalised, as we do with other potentially dangerous vehicles.

PMDs have a place in our transport future, but only if their use is balanced with public safety. Right now, that balance is significantly skewed, and it is pedestrians — especially the elderly, children, people with disabilities, and those walking pets — who are paying the price.

I respectfully request that this inquiry take immediate and decisive steps to protect the safety and rights of pedestrians in Queensland.

Yours sincerely,
Georgina Cassels