

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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I live in the Noosa shire. E-bikes and e-scooters are an everyday presence, and it's clear that something must be done to tighten regulation of the importing and purchasing of these devices, and the enforcement of the riding laws. Enforcement is currently so minimal as to be almost non-existent. E-bikes in particular are most dangerous. The vast majority of these illegal, travelling in excess of 50kph on road and footpath. I've seen some going over 60kph on the footpath - quite easy to tell the speed when an e-bike is keeping up with your car! Usually these are ridden by young people who have limited grasp idea of the road rules or potential consequences. Almost every day I see kids doing wheelies on them. These are not the equivalent of push bikes with motors - they are motorbikes with electric engines instead of petrol. And children are riding them recklessly everywhere. The consequences are real. The crossing lady at my children's school was hit by an e-bike that was ridden by a teenager. The traffic was stopped in both directions, and school children had just finished crossing the road. The e-bike came past the stopped traffic at speed and hit the crossing lady. AT A SCHOOL CROSSING! It knocked her flat on the ground. Both her wrists are broken, ribs damaged. She's lucky she's not dead. What would have happened if children were still crossing? There would be a dead child instead! The ambulance came. The police came. It was a teenager, making a stupid decision, on an illegal bike that became a weapon. This was in early April - she is still not healed and back at the crossing. The e-bikes being sold in shops are illegal. Some of our friends purchased e-bikes, and the shop "unlocked" them at purchase so they can go the full, illegal speed. Apparently that is what is done with every purchase. There are laws about the speed these bikes can go, but the vast, vast majority of e-bikes I see every day are travelling faster than the limits. Something must be done. E-bikes are useful, which is why they've become so popular. But the current state is dangerous, with illegal bikes being imported, sold, and ridden at speed in dangerous ways.