

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Concerns Regarding E-Scooter Safety for Pedestrians and Road Users

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the increasing presence and use of electric scooters (e-scooters) in our community, particularly in pedestrian areas and on shared pathways. While e-scooters offer a convenient and environmentally friendly mode of transport, their rapid adoption has introduced significant safety risks that warrant urgent attention and regulation.

Key Concerns:

1. **Pedestrian Safety Risks**

E-scooters often travel at speeds up to and over 25 km/h, which poses a serious risk to pedestrians, especially the elderly, children, and those with disabilities. Incidents of collisions and near-misses are becoming more common, particularly on footpaths and shared zones where visibility and space are limited.

2. **Inadequate Infrastructure and Regulation**

In Queensland, e-scooters are classified as personal mobility devices and are permitted on footpaths and local roads under 50 km/h but are often observed outside these areas.

However, the infrastructure has not kept pace with their proliferation. Many areas lack designated lanes or signage, leading to confusion and unsafe interactions between users.

These E- scooters do not have to be registered making it difficult to apprehend riders with bad riding behaviours and should be regulated.

3. **Crash and Injury Data**

Research from the Queensland University of Technology highlights a growing number of e-scooter-related injuries, with hospital admissions data indicating a rise in serious incidents and deaths.

These include head injuries, fractures, and trauma resulting from both rider falls and collisions with pedestrians.

4. **Lack of Enforcement and Public Awareness**

Weak enforcement of helmet laws, speed limits, and riding behaviour contributes to unsafe practices. Many users are unaware of the rules or choose to ignore them, exacerbating the risks to themselves and others

5. **Fire Hazards from Battery Charging**

There is also growing concern about the fire risks associated with charging e-

scooters, particularly in residential buildings. Lithium-ion battery fires have prompted new regulations in some jurisdictions

Recommendations:

- **Restrict e-scooter use on footpaths** and designate specific lanes or zones for their operation.
- **Increase public education** on safe riding practices and legal obligations.
- **Enhance enforcement** of existing laws, including speed limits and helmet use.
- **Registration of all e-scooters.**
- **Collect and publish local incident data** to inform future policy decisions.
- **Collaborate with state authorities** to ensure consistent and effective regulation.

I urge the government to consider these concerns seriously and take proactive steps to ensure the safety of all road and path users in our community.