

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 454

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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a member of the public, I feel I must have a voice when the law is being broken or if any other members of the public are at risk of serious injury or harm especially when children are involved. I have recently witnessed adults and children misusing E-bikes on a number of occasions. In one instance two adults and two children riding an E-bike together in a school zone on the Gold Coast Highway at 8:00 am. Only the toddler sitting in front of the adult in control of the E-bike was wearing a helmet. On another occasion, two teenagers riding E-bikes, wearing helmets, traveling on the Gold Coast highway at 9:30 am on a school day. I was stopped at a red light waiting to exit the Gold Coast Highway turning right into Christine Avenue. Both riders were in the inside lane and moved over into the turning lane in front of me, just before the light changed to green. As they exited the highway one rider stood on the seat of his bike, the other traveling on the back wheel down to the traffic lights at Lemana Lane. When the light turned green the same riding behaviour continued and I lost sight of them as they were ignoring speed limit. Recently I saw a high school boy riding his E-bike in the inside lane along Pacific Avenue traveling east up to the high school. I watched a minibus turn left into a driveway in front of the boy. He took evasive action by swerving into the outside lane but didn't look behind him to see if it was safe to do so. Young users have no road sense and abuse the system. What are we teaching our kids? I'm sure incidents are happening every day concerning E-bikes and E-scooters. The actions and choices of the individuals using these modes of transport are breaking road rules and the law. They are uninsured, unregulated and unregistered. In the case of accidents, who is responsible for the damage to vehicles, or in the worst-case scenario, death? Anyone using the road has to be registered and proven able to drive by passing a driving test. Anyone under the age of 17 should not be using the roads. E-bikes are quiet and able to reach the same speed as a car and to me, that's a recipe for disaster in the hands of children. In conclusion, I feel E-bikes should be registered for users over the age of 17 who are legally able to take driving lessons. As far as the responsibility for the actions of children in particular, this lies with the parents.