

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submission: e-mobility devices (PMD)

E Scooters and E Bicycles are convenient modes of transport: however; even to the most casual observer, many are now used by both children and adults and exceed the current specifications for use.

The current legislation of limiting the power of e bikes and e scooters is quite obviously being flouted, given that many bikes are seen carrying up to four passengers driving on the roads, without pedals being activated. In fact, these vehicles are electric motor bikes. Similar rules are flouted by adult and child e scooter riders, often observed riding and carrying passengers on public roads, keeping up with traffic and often without helmets.

These vehicles regularly weave through traffic, proceed through stop signs and red lights without stopping. Many exceed their design speed by keeping up with traffic and passing vehicles using the roads.

A store at Alexandra Headland is offering an e bike with a power rating of 10000 watts and there are likely many other stores doing the same; the problem originates at the source. Given the current legislation, any person can purchase these vehicles.

The issues are very clear:

- There is no regulation as to what can be sold
- Many of these vehicles are capable of speeds up to 100 kph
- Any person, adult or child, can purchase these vehicles
- These vehicles are unregistered and no fee is paid to use the roads
- Many are used by children and are unlicensed
- Many are used by adults who most likely are also unlicensed to use these “electric motorbikes”
- There is no third party insurance
- In the event of a traffic accident between an e bike or e scooter and a registered motor vehicle, a licensed driver will be unable to make a claim against the rider
- Those vehicles that exceed the current build standard must be classed as “un-roadworthy” and when used, an offence is committed.