

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

The use of e-bikes and e-scooters on pavements are a danger to pedestrians. The use of e-bikes and e-scooters on public roads is not only a danger to the riders but also other road users who have to swerve to avoid them. Both e-scooters and e-bikes that are ridden by more than the driver are totally unsafe especially when they don't wear helmets. Apart from the above it is not appropriate for these scooters and bikes to use roads without any registration or road tax. Why is it permissible that they can, and frequently are, driven at more than the speed limit? I appreciate that these vehicles are environmentally friendly and allow for individuals to get around quickly, but without legislation to control the use of both e-scooters and e-bikes the proliferation of these vehicles will increase to the point where any road user will be in danger. Also, as the cost of these means of transport are expensive, the parents or guardians of the riders may well have contributed to the cost of buying them. Should there not be a responsibility on them to ensure that the law is not being broken in the same way that young car drivers must pass a test and understand the rules of the road? On occasions when walking on footpaths, not marked for shared use, e-scooters drive by at excessive speed and swerve around pedestrians and family groups. When challenged, frequently the only response from the driver is abuse, laughter and threats. When driving in groups this behaviour can be quite intimidating. The Genie is out of the bottle, but authorities have to find a way to control the use of such vehicles by laws that have to be obeyed and riders controlled, as all other citizens must adhere to the laws in place for the safety of everyone. As an elderly woman and not as agile as I'd like, the increasing number of such modes of transport venturing out for a walk, is less enjoyable than it was only very recently. I would also add that, in ensuring impartiality of age, that some of the users of e-mobility vehicles, should also learn to take more care when driving on pavements and in supermarkets!