

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 476
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Submitter Comments:

Thank you for allowing public submission of what has become a common issue effecting both pedestrians and road users, we find ourselves in a position where "the horse has bolted" when it comes to management of these devices and now requires a great deal of catch up. My opinion is that we have reasonable laws in place regarding the use of these vehicles it's just that there is no way currently to police them consistently. We will need to have increased numbers of staff, possibly similar to the security people on our public transport to start to bring the acts of doubling, not wearing helmets, speeding etc under stricter control by issuing on the spot fines / confiscating machines etc. There would be substantial costs involved, but I feel we now no choice as no action will obviously lead to a bigger impact on our hospital / communities. I do feel most of the issues are centred around young people and parents need to be held responsible, sellers of equipment and online equipment upgrades need to be regulated to prevent equipment that does not conform to current regulations. Possibly joint operations using police and department of transport staff in problem areas could help get issues under control. Although this is not something that can happen overnight as we need more feet on the ground for this to happen. The use and sale of electric motorcycles needs specific attention, as this, from what I see has become a huge issue, and I can't help but think that some parents just can't understand the difference between one of these and one with pedals, surely an education / media blitz advising of the strict policing of the rules will be undertaken will then not become a surprise when it happens and non-compliant machines are confiscated or fines given. Separately we need to discuss the use of hire units as they although seem to be reasonably in control regarding speed still are involved with pedestrian interactions. I have noticed some local councils have not renewed contracts for rental companies, this is unfortunate as the correct use of the correct machines will see a great reduction in traffic in most areas. A system for the public to report and get immediate action illegal use of machines better than we currently have would be of great assistance. None of the above will come cheap but in order to make our footpaths, parks and roads safer for all we need to budget and commit and be consistent.