

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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An E Bike or scooter is, for all intents and purposes, a motor vehicle, which should be subject to all legislation pertaining to their use. There appears to be a proliferation in the number of them on our roads, with an increasing number being modified and operated illegally. Unlicensed, unregistered, and uninsured riders are frequently seen riding without due care and control, i.e. riding on one wheel etc., often in close proximity to pedestrians and other road users. The penalty for this behaviour should be instant confiscation and destruction of the bike, as well as a substantial fine and an increase in the age at which they are eligible to obtain a valid driver's licence. As a 'duty of care', these vehicles must not be permitted in School grounds; if a battery was to explode while children are milling around the bicycle compound, who would be liable for injuries and damages? I witnessed a school-aged youth riding at high speed in the breakdown lane against the traffic flow on the M1 between exit 87 and exit 89. He had obviously come from school and decided that this was the quickest way to get to his destination. Lime bikes are being discarded on motorway overpasses, major road median strips, and waterways, which are not 'destinations'. Until it is returned to an appropriate location, user charges should be ongoing for any rented bike.