

## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

<b>Submission No:</b>	491
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<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

**To: Queensland Parliament – Transport and Resources Committee**  
**From: Terry Godde, [REDACTED]**  
**Subject: Safety Submission – E-Scooters in Queensland**

Dear Committee Members,

I write to express deep concern regarding the increasing number of accidents involving electric scooters (e-scooters) across Queensland. The current design and regulatory gaps surrounding their use present unacceptable risks to both riders and the general public.

### **Alarming Trends**

Recent statistics show:

- Over **1,500 e-scooter-related emergency presentations** in Queensland hospitals in 2024, up from 1,273 the previous year.
- **Eight fatalities**, including children and young adults, often involving collisions with vehicles or fixed objects.
- A sharp increase in serious injuries such as **fractures, head trauma**, and collisions with pedestrians—many of whom are elderly or otherwise vulnerable.

### **Technical Concerns**

E-scooters combine **small-diameter wheels** with **high-speed capability**—a dangerous configuration, particularly on uneven surfaces or in traffic. Devices capable of reaching **speeds over 50km/h** are now readily accessible, and in some cases, modified to exceed **90km/h**. This introduces an element of risk equivalent to that of motorbikes but without equivalent regulation or rider training.

### **Recommendations**

To address this growing safety issue, I respectfully urge the Committee to consider the following regulatory actions:

- 1. Reduction in Maximum Speed Limits**
  - Limit e-scooter speeds to **15–20km/h in shared or pedestrian zones**.
  - Introduce **automatic geofencing** to enforce speed limits in designated areas.
- 2. Mandatory Rider Training and Permits**
  - Introduce a **basic e-scooter learner's permit** system with online education covering road rules, safe use, and hazard awareness.
  - Require **practical training or safety tests**, similar to bicycle or moped licensing in other jurisdictions.
- 3. Minimum Age Restrictions**
  - Set a **minimum age of 16 years** for operating e-scooters in public areas, or 14 years with adult supervision and permit.

#### 4. **Enhanced Safety Standards for Devices**

- Mandate **larger wheels (minimum 10 inches or 250mm)**, suspension, and effective braking systems on all public-use e-scooters.
- Ban or strictly regulate **modifications that increase speed**.

#### 5. **Clear Penalties and Enforcement**

- Enforce existing laws regarding helmet use, riding under the influence, and use in restricted zones.
- Deploy random compliance checks by local police or council officers.

#### **Public Safety First**

Without strong and immediate reform, we risk further preventable deaths and injuries. Public spaces must be safe for pedestrians, cyclists, and responsible e-scooter users alike. I strongly encourage the committee to act swiftly to introduce consistent, enforceable, and sensible regulations.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,

**Terry Godde**

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