


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

**Submission No:** 510  
**Submitted by:**   
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

SUBMISSION TO THE E-MOBILITY INQUIRY It is pleasing to see that something will be done about an untenable situation at present re the use of e-mobile devices. The inconveniences they have caused are not trivial, but the main focus for the future must concern the safety of users and other path/road users. That is where this submission will focus. First, one would hope that we can have cross-border uniformity with whatever rules/regulations are put in place. The need for this in two areas of primary interest, Brisbane and Gold Coast, is pretty obvious given our proximity to NSW.

Second, I'm putting forward some regulations which relate to the larger vehicles, (e-bikes), which are much the same size as a 100cc motorbike I had in the 70's for which I had a licence and was compelled to wear a motorbike helmet and to have the bike registered. These regulations might include: 1. The rider and any pillion passenger must wear a motorbike helmet (not a pushbike helmet as at present). This should help to reduce the severity of head injuries which, I understand, is of particular concern for the medicos. 2. The e-bikes must be fitted with front and rear lights, turn indicators, stop light and a distinctive horn. This may not be seen by bike riders of much benefit, but other vehicles and people around them will certainly appreciate having some knowledge about what the e-bike is doing. 3. Riders of e-bikes must obey all road rules. Stop signs, Give Way signs, One Way signs and traffic light signals are frequently ignored in my experience. Policing could obviously be a problem, but maybe the public can get involved by photographing the riders who are not obeying these simple rules and sending details to a designated police site. I know that we don't like "dobbing in" people, but a well targeted campaign emphasising the safety element for users of these vehicles could help. These regulations are not intended to stop (predominantly young) people using these bikes. Unfortunately we don't have the balance between the freedom they provide and the responsibility that comes with that freedom quite right. If and when a set of rules and regulations are developed, communication will be of utmost importance. The schools and social media are two avenues that immediately come to mind. What about penalties? I'd suggest a simple one – confiscation of the vehicle for a set period, with longer periods for second or more offences: say 3 months for 1st offence, 6 months for 2nd and so forth. I would not be in favour of fines because a 3rd party can meet that cost. Also, banning the offender from using the vehicle for a given period would require surveillance that is beyond the resources available. As I say, keep it simple and do the worst thing that a young person would want – loss of their beloved bike. What is written above does not relate to e-scooters and e-bikes that are hired. They must, of course, obey the road rules and the penalty can only be monetary. I'd happily be involved in any forum or discussion group concerning this topic. My concerns are personal as I have teenage grandchildren whom I want to keep safe and I've had some scary moments on the road with e-bikes while out training on my road-bike, both in Brisbane and at Palm Beach on the Gold Coast. Congratulations on getting this issue onto the agenda. Let us hope that something positive comes of it.