

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

**Submission No:** 520  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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### Submitter Comments:

We would like to bring some real world perspective to this conversation. We have had our ebike shop for 3 years and have previously been in the transport industry in motor vehicles, motor scooters and motorbikes for 23 years. We have always prided ourselves on keeping ourselves educated and thus compliant. We believe a Wholistic common sense approach is vital when considering the way forward with new ebike regulations. Whilst safety will always be paramount, we believe practicality must also be figured heavily into this decision. Politics must not factor into this decision at the risk of ending up with bigger issues than we currently aim to solve. By this we mean- the new laws must factor in the following- \*Suitable purpose of use- 25km/h and 250w limits rarely accommodate our clients requirements. eg- taking mum and dad up a hill to the beach. Mum taking a child and school bag to school. 14 year old coming home from surf club with their nipper board and having to make it up a hill. \*Human Nature/ behavior - We believe if suitable common ground is met, this will stop people from altering and buying illegal bikes. We have seen in the past 23 years that human nature shows people will just find a way around it. If the laws are sensible and fair, there is a much much greater chance of people towing the line. Lets avoid this debate in 12 months when the problem is greater than it is now because the new laws we practically inadequate. \*The current economical climate- We hear daily that alot of our clients are really struggling to make ends meet. A huge portion of our customer base is young families that have sold their second car and use their ebike to do the school run and get to work. With road registered scooter registration and insurance super expensive now, they just simply dont see that as an option. Hear me when I tell you, from a "coal face" standing point, people are really struggling financially at the moment. We even have people tell us they will come back and buy a lock on their next payday. Many times! \*Future growth- With everywhere getting busier and busier and the population bulging in alot of towns and cities, ebikes are an amazing way of allowing people to navigate their way around. It just makes sense. Its vital that this is acknowledged as a very viable solution to an issue that is upon us NOW. \*Policing the new laws- If the new laws are sensible and fair, we have a much much better chance of people abiding by them. If you set the speed and power at a point where the bikes dont perform their designed task, the police will forever be playing a game of cat and mouse. One i believe they will never have the resources to keep under control let alone win. Allow the bike to perform tasks at a sensible level, then I believe the the need for enforcement will be hugely hugely less. \*Environmental benefits- I think everyone agrees on this point. We dont want to be discouraging people from going green. Its totally counter intuitive. \*Health benefits- From a personal point of view, I cannot express how good the ebikes have been for my family and my own personal mental health. We get out on our bikes every weekend and meet other families for a ride, lunch, play in the park. This is not to be under estimated. When we meet with the other families, everyone just seems to be so happy and high. Riding the bikes just seems to lift everyones spirits. Not to mention my kids would way rather go for a ride to the beach than sit on the lpad now. The long term benefits in the community, whilst we may not realise them now, will be extremely beneficial and long lasting. Rather than offering criticism we feel, after consulting more than 10 shops, govenment employees, 155+ customers and others we feel the sensible balance should be struck at-#All bikes limited to 35kph#All bikes limited to 1000W- The time spent around the debate of wattage between 250-1000 is largely a waste of time and energy. If you have ridden the bikes and spent time on them you will understand that there is not a great differnece. There really isnt. But the one difference is torque. This means the bike can perform the tasks it was purchased for. If the bikes are limited at 35kph then that largely removes the debate of 250/1000.#Load limit of 2 adults and 1 child OR- If primary rider is

under 18 years of age, two people only#Full face helmet must be compulsory- we sell them as cheap as normal helmets.#All bikes must be purchased by an adult. If the rider of that bike is observed breaking the laws, and are subsequently fined, the fine goes straight to the adult (most likely the parent) to pay. This will put the onus back on the parents to impress upon their children to do the right thing. This should be the foundation of a balanced young society- parents raising their children and setting consequences. I don't believe this should be up to the police to enforce. In summary, these bikes are just another iteration in the evolution of transport. There are people out there in the community that don't like them- and that is fair enough- but it doesn't mean they should be banned or restricted to a point where they are not worth owning. There is a much bigger picture here that has so many more positive benefits than negative. We are happy to share our real world experience on a daily basis, if you would like to chat with someone that is immersed in this industry everyday. I feel we can provide you with a much different view to that of the very few negative people. And let's remember- the negative people are a very small minority.