

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

**Submission No:** 524  
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### Submitter Comments:

Over the last few years I have noticed a sharp rise of e-scooter use in my local area. During this time I have unfortunately had a number of unpleasant encounters and near misses as a pedestrian with e-scooter riders. For the most part these have been with adult e scooter riders. I have found interactions with child e scooter riders in my area to be more safe, courteous and pleasant. These incidents have all occurred on public footpaths where I have been walking. Sometimes I have been alone or accompanied by my young child in a pram and/or my large dog. My chief concerns are almost all e-scooter riders I have encountered request or demand that I (as a pedestrian) give way to them. Sometimes they do not even slow down when this occurs, almost necessitating a dive into the grass or into the gutter to escape being hit by them. This has also occurred more than once when I have had a pram and my dog with me, resulting in a very stressful situation where I feared for the safety of my child. e-scooter riders do not use bells to announce their presence, whereas cyclists do. E-Scooters are very quiet on concrete compared to bicycles, which makes it very hard to hear them coming. If the E scooter rider is also demanding that the pedestrian moves out of their way, this does not provide much opportunity for that to occur. This not only provides a nasty fright to pedestrians, but also dogs who will startle easily with the introduction of a sudden threat. The speed at which e-scooters can be ridden on footpaths and bike paths is terrifying. At times I have had an e scooter rider pass or approach me on the footpath who has been travelling faster than bicycles and vehicles on the road next to us. The potential injuries that could occur as a result are frightening, particularly for the e scooter rider if they are not wearing a helmet which is unfortunately often the case. e-scooters are often used on the footpaths in my local area, despite dedicated bike lanes being present on multiple streets. Given the speed at which they can travel, it would make more sense to me from a safety perspective if they are used in bike lanes. e-scooters which are available for public hire are often left in locations which result in footpaths being blocked. This raises big problems with accessibility for path users with disabilities.