

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 538
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Attachments: See attachment

Submitter Comments:

1. General Position I believe that the increasing use of personal mobility devices (PMDs) and e-bikes in Queensland is currently unregulated and presents a significant public safety concern. These devices are often used without registration, insurance, licensing, or training, which puts both riders and the wider community at risk. Urgent reforms are required to address safety issues and close legislative gaps.

2. Safety Issues with E-Mobility Devices

- PMDs and e-bikes are involved in a growing number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities.
- Many users ride at high speeds on footpaths and roads, creating hazards for pedestrians, especially children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- Some devices are modified to exceed speed limits, increasing the likelihood of severe accidents.
- There is community frustration with the lack of accountability when dangerous or reckless riding occurs.

3. Suitability of Current Regulatory Frameworks

- Current Queensland laws are outdated and do not reflect the rapid rise in e-mobility usage.
- There is a lack of uniform standards across Australia, making enforcement inconsistent and confusing for users.
- Internationally, many countries have stricter licensing, speed limits, and registration requirements for these devices.
- Queensland should review and adopt best practices from jurisdictions with successful e-mobility integration, such as parts of Europe and Singapore.

4. Effectiveness of Current Enforcement Approaches

- Law enforcement lacks the tools and powers to consistently penalise dangerous behaviour.
- Many riders are not aware of the rules or choose to ignore them due to minimal consequences.
- There is little incentive for users to operate safely when they can ride without licenses, training, or insurance.

5. Gaps Between Commonwealth and Queensland Laws

- Illegal devices can be legally imported online but do not meet Queensland's safety standards.
- This legal loophole allows dangerous devices onto our streets, bypassing local safety regulations.
- Stronger border controls and clearer standards for importers are needed to prevent these devices from entering the market.

6. Communication and Education

- Public awareness of PMD and e-bike laws is low.
- There is a lack of effective campaigns to educate users on safety, legal requirements, and consequences of misuse.
- Clear, consistent messaging is essential, particularly for younger riders and international visitors who may not understand local laws.

7. Recommendations

- Introduce mandatory registration and insurance for high-powered e-mobility devices.
- Require basic training or licensing for users.
- Increase penalties for reckless or unlawful use.
- Ban importation and sale of illegal and non-compliant devices.
- Launch a statewide safety and education campaign on responsible use.

8. Conclusion Queensland's current approach to e-mobility is not keeping pace with the rapid growth of these devices. Without immediate intervention, we will continue to see rising injuries, community concern, and inequity between road users. I urge the government to implement stronger regulations, improve enforcement, and prioritise public safety.

Submission to the Inquiry into the Safety and Use of E-Mobility Devices in Queensland

By [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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