

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Having heavy electric vehicles moving at speed on the footpaths is inherently dangerous and an unacceptable risk to the community, especially the elderly and disabled. As a resident of the city, I have personally witnessed injury on multiple occasions, including a recent incident where two teenage girls “doubling” on a scooter seriously injured an elderly man on Queen Street near the post office. The blind, the disabled, and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to these risks. The vast majority of cities in developed countries have recognised this risk and have banned e-scooters on footpaths. Examples of cities with smart leadership that have banned e-scooters include San Francisco, New York City, Denver, Portland, Austin, Seattle, Honolulu, Paris, Copenhagen, Vienna, Amsterdam, Singapore, etc. You should do research on this as part of your investigation. My estimates suggest that 70-80% of cities in the world have banned e-scooters on footpaths. Many of those that have not yet banned them are in poor or underdeveloped countries that lack the resources for enforcement. It’s unacceptable that an advanced and wealthy city like Brisbane is behind in this area. E-scooters are dangerous, and the benefits do not outweigh the risks, especially the risks to our most vulnerable community members.