

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 548
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

1. Benefits of e-mobility (including both Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes) for Queensland; Better access to personal transport at an affordable price Less road traffic resulting in less emissions 2. Safety issues associated with e-mobility use, including increasing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and community concerns; Safety issues are from incorrect PPE or lack of PPE and incompetent use - I would be interested in seeing the incident reports broken down to owned PEV vs Hired PEV - increased accidents due to unskilled and unpracticed persons hiring scooters and using without required skills Rules are in place to help reduce accidents and responsible PEV owners follow the rules and speed limits while on roads and bike paths - where no option but to use a footpath exists then responsible owners will slow to walking pace - however I have witnessed pedestrians stepping into the path of bikes (non-electric) and electric vehicles as they are often engaged in looking at the phone or have headphones on/Consider banning use of hired PEV if the review of accidents provides evidence that they are responsible for a higher number of accidents statistically A proficiency test run through schools targeted at younger users (12-18) of PEV could help - with restrictions on power for younger riders 3. Issues associated with e-mobility ownership, such as risk of fire, storage and disposal of lithium batteries used in e-mobility, and any consideration of mitigants or controls; Application of Australian standards and enforcement of this for any imports and AU manufacturers - cheaper imports can be problematic - but also increased awareness of the dangers through govt advertising 4. Suitability of current regulatory frameworks for PMDs and ebikes, informed by approaches in Australia and internationally; As indicated above the use of hired PEVs may be a larger problem than owned PEV - the groups that I ride with are respectful of other road and path users - slowing down for pedestrians - giving way to dog walkers etc - the fines and penalties for improper use are in place but not enforced or are only enforced in brief targeted stings (one location for one period) 5. Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches and powers to address dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices; As above 6. Gaps between Commonwealth and Queensland laws that allow illegal devices to be imported and used; 7. Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use; and Information is readily available and responsible users research the requirements before buying 8. Broad stakeholder perspectives, including from community members, road user groups, disability advocates, health and trauma experts, academia, the e-mobility industry, and all levels of government. I have been riding an electric skateboard for the last two years - i had experience in skateboarding before purchase and ride with consideration of others. Despite this there have been instances where i felt unsafe riding on roads due to lack of infrastructure (vehicles driving too close etc) - part of the plan to reduce incidents must include increased segregated bike paths through QLD. I avoid footpaths where possible but it is not always possible The remainder should be focused on rider education and proficiency testing (with a focus on ensuring low cost solutions) I strongly disagree with the recommendation that I have seen from others requiring insurance/licenses etc as this would take away the benefits of riding PEV. Push bikes ridden irresponsibly have a similar risk profile when hitting pedestrians etc and are not required to get insurance and it would likely not fix the problem of irresponsible use as they would simply not get the insurance The remainder is a higher level of enforcement and education around the dangers of use