

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 560
Submitted by: Balonne Shire Council
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Balonne Shire Council has seven discrete communities within the local government area - St George, Dirranbandi, Thallon, Nindigully, Bollon, Hebel and Mungindi. Mungindi is unique being a border town with two sets of regulations regarding emobility devices. The main street of St George, Dirranbandi, Bollon and Hebel have a current speed limit through all townships on State controlled roads is 60km. Our local streets controlled by Council are 50km. All have large agricultural vehicles and B double trucks that traverse our towns and highways. St George is the busiest CBD in the Shire with two primary schools and one high school. The three schools are in close proximity to the Carnarvon Highway that runs east to Roma and South to Mungindi. The main street of St George intersects with the highway in the centrally located between the three schools. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of electric scooters that children as young as 4 into teenage years that have been witnessed driving on the wrong side of the road, driving at night with no lights or hi vis, driving on footpaths at speed past shop door fronts and generally at speeds that appear to be greater than 20km/h. Very seldom are they wearing helmets or protective clothing. Sometimes there can be upwards of 3 children on the one scooter. The concern is obviously a serious accident waiting to occur with a vehicle or road train, a scooter hitting a pedestrian or a single scooter accident throwing the child off without any head protection. There does not appear to be adequate policing, penalties or confiscation. Council respectfully requests the Committee to consider reduced speed limits within townships that have a state highway traverse through the centre of town and increase the ability for police to regulate the dangerous operation of the e-scooters.