

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

<b>Submission No:</b>	596
<b>Submitted by:</b>	David McLean
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission and your name public
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

## David McLean ESM JP



8/10/2024

The Hon. Bart MELLISH MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads  
Queensland Government  
GPO Box 2644  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Minister MELLISH,

**Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding the Safety of E-Scooters and Bikes in Queensland**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my growing concern about the pressing issue affecting our community: the safety of the members of the public from e-scooters and bicycles on Queensland's roads.

Over the past months, there has been a noticeable increase in traffic incidents involving e-scooters and e-bikes. This trend is alarming, not only due to the potential danger it poses to individuals and property but also because it reflects a deeper issue that requires immediate attention.

Traffic related instances involving e-scooters and bikes is creating an environment of fear and uncertainty among residents. The blatant misuse of these vehicles by some individuals poses a significant safety risk, not only to those riding them, but to other road users. E-scooters, in particular, have become a popular mode of transportation; however, their misuse by both youths and adults is contributing to unsafe conditions on our roads and footpaths. Locally on the Sunshine Coast instances every day are experienced where youths are riding these bikes and scooters dangerously, at elevated speeds, in amongst traffic and in contravention of the law.

Moreover, the lack of adequate regulation and enforcement around the use of e-scooters and bicycles is exacerbating these issues. Current measures seem insufficient to address the rising number of accidents and irresponsible behaviour. Many e-scooters and bikes are being used inappropriately, leading to dangerous situations for riders and pedestrians alike.

The incident today where a 12 YO school girl was killed whilst traveling to school at Maroochydore highlight the inadequacy of current legislation to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge you to consider the following actions:

1. **Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Programs:** Increase support for programs and legislation aimed at promoting responsible use of e-scooters and bikes. Enhanced patrols and community engagement can play a crucial role in deterring criminal activities and fostering a safer environment, but tougher legislation including the seizure and loss or destruction of repeat offenders equipment would go a long way in deterring further irresponsible behaviour from offenders.
2. **Reviewing and Enhancing Regulations:** Conduct a thorough review of current regulations governing e-scooter and bike usage. Implementing stricter rules and ensuring proper enforcement can help mitigate safety risks. Consideration should be given to simpler enforcement measures to ensure relevant safety gear, speed limits, and riding are adhered to for these vehicles.
3. **Promoting Public Awareness:** Launch educational campaigns to inform the public about safe riding practices and the legal consequences of improper use. Raising awareness can help reduce misuse and promote responsible behaviour among all users. These should also be specifically targeted at the parents who are enabling this behaviour by buying such equipment and NOT providing adequate supervision. Go to any State High or primary school and see how many students are riding this equipment illegally.
4. **Improving Infrastructure:** Invest in infrastructure improvements, such as dedicated bike lanes and safer parking solutions for e-scooters, to enhance safety and reduce conflicts between different road users. This also applies to regular pedal powered bicycles as the current ruling allowing them to ride 2 abreast is absolutely ridiculous. Why are we pushing a vehicle that can kill further to the centre of the danger point of a roadway so 2 or more cyclists can have a chat together whilst riding. I believe the intention of the 2 abreast rule was to allow people to pass each other not to restrict vehicular traffic or for a social gathering.

The safety and well-being of our community should be a top priority. Addressing these issues proactively will not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also contribute to a safer and more orderly use of our transport networks.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. I am confident that with your leadership and commitment, we can tackle these challenges effectively and create a safer environment for all Queenslanders.

I look forward to your response and am hopeful for positive action in addressing these critical issues.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of David McLEAN.

David McLEAN ESM JP Qual



## David McLean ESM JP



8/10/2024

The Hon. Bart MELLISH MP  
Minister for Transport and Main Roads  
Queensland Government  
GPO Box 2644  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Dear Minister MELLISH,

**Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding the Safety of E-Scooters and Bikes in Queensland**

Thank you for your response to my August letter regarding the above from the General Manager (Land Transport Safety Regulation) Joanna ROBINSON dated 5/9/24. Whilst many of the points Joanna has raised are valid, I feel there is a glaring missing opportunity here to address the issue. Whilst the Police are indeed responsible for enforcement, I'm sure we would all agree that they have more serious issues to deal with in our community.

After speaking with several of them and my local stations it appears their hands are very tied in relation to identifying who the offenders are and a reluctance by QPS to engage in any pursuits to apprehend Offenders who are often Juvenile. Prosecution is made more difficult due to lack of Identifying particulars (I.e. Registration) Lastly there is also a reluctance by judges to impose appropriate penalties to deter recidivist Offenders or repeat Offences.

Some Police have even stated that Offenders are challenging them to chase them or to attempt to arrest or charge them and are even videoing themselves in front of Police Stations performing illegal activity and dangerous stunts to place on social media. One recent case when they were challenged by Police, they sped off screaming [REDACTED] the Police. – A visit to nearly any Sunshine Coast or Qld Police Station would be able to verify many similar instances or similar behaviour.

As someone who always believes in being part of the solution and not just whinging about the problem, I firmly believe there could be an additional targeted meaningful approach to the current measures outlined by Joanna that would deter Offenders as follows: -

1. Currently Legislation restricts the speeds of these E Bikes to 25km/Hr on Road and 12km/Hr on footpaths. The issue is that manufacturers are allowing the governed speed limits to pre-set at purchase to be overridden and reset to maximum speeds. By legislating to prevent this by manufacturers, resellers, hirers and end users alike would then allow Police, Transport

Department Inspectors, Local Laws Officers and any other enforcement agencies to issue Infringement Notices.

2. All Electric powered Bikes and Scooters should be made to have conditional registration or similar identifying registration that allows members of the public to report offenders, with the registered owner being held accountable. (I.E The parents in many cases). It is ambiguous to think that these people can pay up to \$3 or \$5 thousand dollars for these machines and not be able to afford a nominal registration fee of a couple of hundred dollars.
3. I would also suggest visits to local primary and Secondary Schools by TMR Personnel to educate and do compliance audits at the schools to see how many people are complying with current road rules regarding age, Helmets, Doubling etc.

As per my previous correspondence Traffic related instances involving e-scooters and bikes is creating an environment of fear and uncertainty among residents. The blatant misuse of these vehicles by some individuals poses a significant safety risk, not only to those riding them, but to other road users. E-scooters, in particular, have become a popular mode of transportation; however, their misuse by both youths and adults is contributing to unsafe conditions on our roads and footpaths. Locally on the Sunshine Coast instances every day are experienced where youths are riding these bikes and scooters dangerously, at elevated speeds, in amongst traffic and in contravention of the law.

I look forward to your response and am hopeful for positive action in addressing these critical issues to create a safer environment for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of David McLEAN.

David McLEAN ESM JP Qual

CC OIC Coolum Police

Shadow Minister for Transport Mr. Steve MINIKIN

Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety Mr Daniel (Dan) PURDIE