

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I'm glad that this issue is finally being addressed. E-Scooters and E-bikes have become a serial pest and safety hazard on the Gold Coast. I live on Acanthus Ave in Burleigh Waters; our street is now a raceway for teenagers speeding and doing wheelies on E-bikes and Scooters. Some of these bikes are going in excess of 70km in the street! The walking paths, bikeways and streets around Burleigh are becoming increasingly unsafe as (predominantly) teens who have little knowledge of road rules are riding these high powered vehicles. These bikes are also very quiet so you cannot hear them coming. Solutions to this problem could be: 1. Raise the age to ride E-bikes and Scooters to 17 years of age. 2. Have any bike/scooter that goes above 20km registered. 3. Require a licence or at least pass a road rules test. 4. Provide education to both parents and children via schools and media - perhaps the Grim-reaper advertisements from the 1980s are needed. 5. No doubling; tripling or worse. 6. Have significant penalties for those who modify E-bikes and Scooters. Rules and legislation will only be successful if it is enforced. I have never seen a rider pulled up by the police for either speed, no helmet, riding on one wheel or erratic use of the scooter/bikes. Last week I have witnessed an Uber Eats bike rider (without helmet) go straight past a police car with no action taken. Similarly, last year I watched a bike rider with no helmet go straight through a red light on a busy intersection. A police car was at that intersection beside me and also took no action. Unless the Police have the resources and 'the will' to enforce even the current regulations, then this problem is only going to increase. And it is increasing. I'm also horrified when I see young (helmet-less) dads riding an E-bike tripling with 3 kids on the bike. They should be put in jail for endangering their children! Is this any less serious than Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs. The E-Bike and E-Scooter problem is already out of control - we need Australia wide laws and proper enforcement if there is going to be any change.