

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	617
Submitted by:	Peter Fisher
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Submission to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

From: Peter Fisher (Interested Citizen)

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: Advocating for a Balanced and Progressive Regulatory Framework for E-Bikes in Queensland

To the esteemed members of the Queensland Parliament,

I am writing as an interested citizen with a keen eye on developments that affect urban mobility and recreation, and I appreciate this opportunity to provide a submission regarding the **Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**. While I understand the Bill's primary focus on social impact assessments and community benefit in planning and development, I believe it's crucial to also consider how broader legislative frameworks can support beneficial community outcomes, particularly concerning electric bicycles (e-bikes).

I am deeply concerned about the increasing presence of unsafe e-bike products in the market that lack proper certification or testing. My unwavering stance is that **products failing to meet established safety standards should not be available for sale**. However, I also believe strongly that restricting access to safe, certified, higher-speed e-bikes would be a disservice to the community. Such e-bikes offer significant potential for enhancing sustainable transport options, improving accessibility for many, and expanding recreational opportunities.

My concern stems from the potential for future regulations to inadvertently limit the availability of safe, higher-speed e-bikes, even if they meet stringent international safety and quality benchmarks. The current regulatory environment for e-bikes can sometimes be unclear, and I advocate for a clear, progressive approach that safeguards public safety while enabling consumer choice and technological advancement.

My Proposal: Industry Self-Compliance with Mandatory Testing to International Standards

I urge the Queensland Government to consider a regulatory model that encourages the e-bike industry to implement **self-compliance**, rigorously supported by **mandatory testing to internationally recognised e-bike standards**. This approach would empower the industry to continue innovating and meeting consumer demand, while providing robust assurance of product safety and quality.

Specifically, I propose that any e-bike sold in Queensland, especially those capable of higher speeds, be required to undergo and pass comprehensive testing to established global standards. These should include, but not be limited to:

- **EN 17404 (Cycles – Electrically Power Assisted Cycles – EPAC Mountain Bikes):** This standard provides safety requirements and test methods for electrically power assisted mountain bikes, addressing aspects like structural integrity, braking, and electrical safety.
- **EN 15194 (Cycles – Electrically Power Assisted Cycles – EPAC Bicycles):** This widely adopted European standard covers general e-bikes, specifying safety requirements for their design, assembly, and testing, including mechanical and electrical aspects.

- **UL 2849 (Standard for Electrical Systems for eBikes):** This North American standard focuses specifically on the electrical system of e-bikes, including batteries, chargers, and motors, to minimise fire and electric shock hazards.

I believe the benefits of this approach are substantial:

1. **Enhanced Public Safety:** Mandating adherence to these rigorous international standards ensures that only products deemed safe by comprehensive testing reach consumers, significantly reducing risks associated with uncertified or poorly manufactured e-bikes.
2. **Encourages Responsible Industry Practices:** It fosters a culture of accountability within the e-bike industry, prompting manufacturers and retailers to prioritise quality and safety without stifling innovation or unduly limiting consumer choice.
3. **Clear Guidelines:** Provides clear, quantifiable benchmarks for safety and quality, simplifying oversight and offering transparency for both businesses and consumers.
4. **Market Alignment:** Aligns Queensland with leading international markets that have successfully integrated e-bikes into their transport and recreational ecosystems, ensuring access to a wide range of compliant products while preventing the influx of substandard goods.
5. **Economic and Social Contributions:** Supports a legitimate e-bike market, contributing to economic activity and allowing residents to fully embrace the environmental, health, and social benefits that modern e-bikes offer, aligning with the broader "community benefit" objectives.

I respectfully request that these insights be given due consideration in the development of any current or future legislation pertaining to e-bikes. It is my firm belief that this balanced approach will help ensure Queensland remains a leader in safe, sustainable, and progressive personal mobility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Fisher

Interested Citizen