

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

**Submission No:** 619  
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### Submitter Comments:

I fail to understand the rationale behind parents purchasing e-scooters and e-bikes for young children, who lack the necessary experience, judgement and road sense to safely operate them on public roads, pathways and parklands. While not wishing to tar every youngster with the same brush, all too often I witness appalling and/or dangerous behaviour by young riders of these machines. When the local parklands are saturated by recent rainfall, it was common to see deep ruts left in the grass by stupid operators, who apparently think it amusing to vandalise public property. Almost every evening while walking, I see young children operating these vehicles dangerously, zooming along or across the roads, helmet-less and often carrying another child. I fear that if I hit one while driving, I would be pilloried by media and parents, when the fault would lie squarely on the 'victim's' shoulders. We don't allow children under 16 to operate motor vehicles, because we know they are too immature to operate them safely. Why, then, is it OK for 10-12 year old kids to zoom along the local paths and roads, often at greater speeds than the vehicular traffic? We worry about half of our children being obese and yet encourage them to ride some e-bike or scooter which provides exactly zero exercise value! I can only shake my head and wonder in what year common sense and the good of the majority became irrelevant. (That said, I also wonder about the wisdom of letting four or five-year-olds operate bicycles and razor scooters. As a not-so-young pedestrian, I worry for my own and my dog's safety when out walking, not to mention what would happen if a tiny rider hit one of us or lost control avoiding us - my comment above about parental common sense operates here, too!)