

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 621
Submitted by: David Huth
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Regarding the eight aspects of the terms of reference:1. There are benefits of these electric devices under certain conditions as it would allow people to transit through the community as another form of transport. " Under certain Conditions" would mean that these electric devices would not be allowed on foot paths at all and that they be part of the road network or dedicated bike paths or new infrastructure to accommodate PMDs.2. The safety issue at the present time is very troubling to pedestrians on foot paths. Many times there are individuals on footpaths traveling to fast, weaving around people, very young children in control of e scooters and bikes, individuals being affected by alcohol, no helmets and toddlers being doubled by adults. A good example of the safety issues is at the local park in which there is a playground adjoining the Maroochy River with a walk way dividing the river and playground. Often you see PMDs riding through there at speed with no regard to children, parents and grandparents going to and from playground to the river. It is of great concern in the local community where people, particularly those with mobility issues and the elderly, are questioning whether they will continue their regular walking exercise as they may be hit or sustain life altering injuries on the footpaths. As a road user the unlicensed, under aged, powerful e bikes and scooters weaving in and out of traffic, with no concern for red lights, passing cars, no lights, no indicators, no rear lights are a huge safety concern to all other legal road users. I have observed groups of young males on E scooters and E bikes hassling car drivers who are obeying the speed limit. The group will intimidate drivers by having half the group on each side of the moving car, tooting their horns, verbally abusing and at times hit the side of the car with their hands. This is extremely dangerous to all parties and intimidating to the driver. All of these issues have been personally observed as a unit owner on the fourth floor apartment over looking a well used road and park with a walking path through it.4. Suitability of current regulatory framework is very confusing and believe it is hard to in force as there is to many variations to the regulations. The current regulations and laws should be simplified so, they can be easily understand and for law enforcement to effectively address illegal and dangerous behaviours.5. Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches at the moment is not effective as there is very little observed evidence of any enforcement. School holidays when dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices increases, that is when there should be a increase of enforcement on our footpaths and road ways to stamp out bad behaviour.7. Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use. It should be a high priority to communicate a simplification of current regulations and also communicate the consequences for breaking these laws and regulations. This should be done via social media, television and radio, and in schools. At the present time no one knows what the regulations and laws really are. It should be that footpaths be off limits to all Personal Mobility Devices such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, e-bikes and regular bikes so that people can enjoy walking and running safely without fear of injury. All powerful e scooters and e bikes that can go as fast as cars should be removed from the road or become compliant like petrol driven motor cycles that have to be registered, road worthy and riders should be licensed.