

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Benefits of E-mobility Devices. I understand that not all people can afford a motor vehicle or have the space to garage/park an extra vehicle on their property so one of these devices provides another mode of transport. They don't take up the same amount of parking space in public parking areas and are convenient for many people. They provide a great economic solution for a big variety of people. Safety Risks I feel that pedestrians are at risk from these vehicles as they produce little if any noise and create a hazard when being driven at speed on footpaths and other pedestrian pathways. Due to the speeds they are able to achieve pedestrians are given little warning if any of an approaching device. My own experience is witnessing meal delivery people using footpaths to navigate their route to avoid traffic as the quicker they deliver, the more jobs they can take on. My belief is that the speed should be strictly regulated and they should not be able to be sold until that has been done. I have also witnessed a driver of one of these devices nearly cause an accident by running a red light and narrowly missing being hit by a vehicle. Two issues arise from this. 1) If rider/driver is not insured, who pays the damage other than the innocent party's insurance? 2) Injury/death sustained is then hanging over the innocent party's head (Psychological damage) Current Rules and Regulations Since these devices are not registered, they should not be used on the roads, therefore forcing footpath/pedestrian path usage, creating a catch 22 situation. A lot of people using these devices on the road are not old enough to have a licence for a motorised vehicle, yes I know they are electric but their speed should be a factor in their proper usage and control. Non registration brings us back to no 3rd party coverage, Who pays for damage in an accident etc? Enforcement I believe they should be registered if their speed is not reduced and/or have speed reduced devices that are able to be ridden in the same areas as manual push bikes. Fines should be handed down to law breakers for the same infringements as for motor vehicles, ie, speed, traffic lights. (extra burden on police).