

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	626
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Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO E-MOBILITY SAFETY AND USE

It is unequivocal that regulation of motorised vehicles on public roads, including footpaths and road related areas is essential for public safety. The separation of pedestrians, including the aged and infirm, from any form of traffic travelling at speeds likely to cause serious injury in the event of a collision is a public safety issue that the Government has a primary duty of care to respond to.

The vehicle user to a large degree chooses to operate the vehicle at their own personal risk, although for a minor incapable of assessing risk due to a lack of experience, this risk assessment must be acknowledged as their guardian's responsibility. The Government has a clear responsibility to control risk of serious injury to innocent third parties using public spaces. Elderly pedestrians, including myself, are now avoiding the use of public spaces because they are afraid of injury caused by unregulated vehicles using those public spaces.

The first step in regulation, is a requirement for registration of all vehicles using those public spaces. It is only through registration that identifies the vehicle, its type, power and configuration that accurate accident statistics can be collected and responded to by Government.

As well as the standard scooter configurations, recreational electric skateboards, monocycles and Segways are now finding their way on to public roads even in regional areas. Electric bicycles are now available with 80 kW power and even though their sale is supposedly restricted to use on private property, it is apparent that some of these vehicles are finding their way on to public roads and other road related areas.

I believe it is imperative that all vehicles used on public roads are registered. Registration will provide the following benefits;

- The Government will be able to regulate specific to the type and rated power of the vehicle
- Where the power / speed capacity of a vehicle indicates that significant personal injury is likely in the event of a collision, registration would include appropriate compulsory insurance as exists for current vehicle registration.
- The police will be able to readily identify the type/capacity of the vehicle and if it is being used in accordance the regulations applicable to that type of vehicle
- In the event of an accident vehicle identification will provide a trail to the registered owner and responsible person.

The simple requirement for registration of all motorised vehicles to be used in public spaces would, to a large extent, future proof the Government as technology introduces new and innovative vehicle types.

The community cost of injury, long term care of the injured and traumatised would far exceed the cost of a registration system. The expansion of the existing vehicle registration system to include other motorised vehicles would not incur significant additional costs to Government or require the introduction of innovative new procedures.

Once registration of vehicles is achieved, vehicle specific regulation may include;

- Age limits and licencing requirements for specific types or power of vehicle
- Restrictions on the location of use, traffic lanes, shared pedestrian areas, or footpaths in commercial areas
- Blanket speed limits relating to the area of use
- A raft of other safety issues applicable to the power of the vehicle and the location of its use.

Please as a priority of the inquiry into the currently unregulated use of electric powered vehicles in public spaces, include consideration for the registration of such vehicles.

Yours sincerely

Terry Thompson