

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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When our family sold one of our two cars and replaced it with an electric cargo bike five years ago, it opened up our world. It provides us with stress-free transport that is affordable, quiet, and clean. I can travel with my two children while also carrying a number of handy items including groceries, backpacks, and jackets. It's no wonder the popularity of e-bikes is growing, but why don't even more people use them? On a bike riding right next to a car, it's easy to feel scared for one's safety. On the footpath it can be difficult navigating pedestrians. More dedicated active transport infrastructure would be a great help for increasing usage, reducing congestion, and improving safety. I strongly recommend that this committee consider investing in greater active transport infrastructure to increase usage, reduce congestion, and improve safety. Congestion is choking our cities. For a city like Brisbane, which is growing rapidly, cars become increasingly inefficient. They just take up too much space. Incredibly, we continue to dedicate most of the space in our streets to them. What a typical street of the future could look like is one that distributes street space equally for all transport modes—with a lane for cars, a bus lane, a separated bike way, and a wide footpath. Instead of giving the majority of the precious space in our streets over to cars, and leaving whatever's left—which sometimes is not much more than a narrow dirt footpath—to everyone else, let's be conscious of using the limited street space available to allow for greater mode share. If the committee were to consider the above approach, I believe you could go a long way in addressing safety concerns while also providing the opportunity for these burgeoning new modes of transport to flourish and ease the congestion currently choking our cities.