

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

As someone who commutes via e-scooter into the city and around suburbia there are several issues I'd like to report with our scooter laws.1. E-scooters should be treated as no different to bicycles. E-scooters are not permitted on roads above 50km/hr where bicycles are permitted. This leads to people riding on footpaths which is unsafe for both pedestrians and e-scooter riders for a variety of reasons including the fact that footpaths are uneven, often poorly maintained and a hazard to riders. At minimum the regulations should be altered to allow e-scooters on any roads with bike lanes. They take up no more space than bicycles and are more capable on average to keep up with traffic, and are no more or less vulnerable to incidents than bicycles from other road vehicles.2. Introduce appropriate riding gear rules. Often times I observe people not wearing shoes (and helmets which is already part of the legislation and significantly under policed). At a bare minimum enclosed footwear should be mandatory for safe riding and to prevent accidents due to slippages and significant injury to lower limbs when they do.3. Introduce third party insurance for e-scooter riders and bicycle riders to protect pedestrians from injury or death without appropriate cover from public liability insurance. Phase in this over a period of 5 years and make it compulsory for e-scooter and bicycles riding on roads. Exemptions for non powered scooters or under 12km/hr and bicycle riders under the age of 15.4. Encourage and promote as government policy the inclusion of publicity for safe riding standards and wearing appropriate gear for riding including full face motorcycle helmets, kevlar jackets and gloves for e-scooter riders. These are shown to save lives and prevent significant injuries.5. Consider lifting speed limits in line with bicycles for e-scooters on main roads. Retain the same speed limits for footpaths to 12km/hr where not dedicated bicycle/e-scooter lane. This will encourage uptake of e-scooters for commuting and takes cars off our roads and public transportation, improving traffic and reducing dependence on public transport.6. There are significant amounts of irresponsible riders in suburban roads that are at high risk, especially from parents tandem riding with their children using no helmets or even footwear. Some are doing this because they have no car and are doing this to get around however well intentioned it may be this is extremely unsafe, and can and will lead to death. This is already illegal but enforcement is clearly not working. Increase awareness campaigns through social media and promote safe riding standards in our communities. The behaviour and standards in our community are evolving and there's a high demand for e-scooter use and its uptake is rising. We need to discover new ways to include these in our city planning and traffic management better. Excluding or banning these devices should not be considered as it will simply lead to illegal and clandestine riding as it does already in states like New South Wales. We need to regulate these appropriately and make sure we raise the standards to improve public safety and that of the riders. Thank you for your consideration.