

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

My main concerns are these.1. Unrestricted Speed. Reputable e-bike vendors like Trek do not allow bikes to exceed 25kph. which I believe is the rule for e-bikes. Indeed owners who are "chipping" their bikes are finding that their motors are throwing error codes and disabling the motors. I've got one, I know. The motor software is constantly monitoring for illegal modification. On the other hand there is a stack of cheap e-bikes and e-scooters being imported (mainly from China) that have no such software and straight from the point of sale, are unrestricted and illegal. And with no consequences for the vendors. 2. As such the bikes and scooters noted above are very dangerous in the hands of children and indeed adults on bike paths. Even on the road, cars have to be constantly on alert around Burleigh not to run into a kid on their scooter doing 70kph or more on the way home from school. See below also about road safety,3. Lack of desire or resources by the QPS to do anything - on any week-end day around the Gold Coast you can easily find a youth doing wheel stands on electric dirt bikes on major roads such as Bemuda Street or Gold Coast Highway. Often the riders don't have helmets. Often their mates are filming them. My main concern here is that I'll get into some accident with these kids and I'd never forgive myself if the kid got hurt. But its often impossible to see them coming.4. In the last 10 - 15 years , Qld has become a state of no consequence. I'm not sure if its a "lack of desire" issue with the QPS or a "lack of resourcing" issue but illegally modified vehicles, (not only e bikes and e scooters) are getting a free pass. We see offenders every week (on the news and social media) thumbing their noses at the courts and police, as a result of the "no consequence" attitude from the authorities in Queensland. This is definately a attitude shift within the public. E-Bikes are a great thing for kids to use to get to and from school. Its just the speed and the erratic nature of these things on the roads , coupled with no helmets that put our kids and other road users at risk.