

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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E- Bikes and Scooters are out of control on our streets and footpaths. The weight of these alone hitting either a pedestrian, parked vehicle or moving vehicle are a major hazard. The majority of these personal e-vehicles from what I can see exceed any 25km/hr limit that is imposed. Kids aren't stupid and can easily make some tweaks watching youtube to increase the speed of these with many able to go over the speed limit and weave in and out of traffic. I think these vehicles should be banned from footpaths and treated as vehicles no matter what speed they are limited to or not limited too. They should be treated as vehicles and require registration and 3rd party insurance, and be held to the road rules as a powered vehicle not a bicycle. There is no recourse for damage caused by these heavy, motorised vehicles when at fault. This happened to my niece where a drunken e-bike rider collided into her parked car at night snapping his bike in half causing \$4000.00 worth of damage to her car. The cost of pursuing this with lawyers far outweighs the cost of any repairs that were needed and the police were unable to intervene in this instance due to lack of laws leaving an 18 year old P plater without a car as the rider was not willing to help with costs. How are police supposed to be able to pursue and catch these riders when they are not obeying road rules as their ability to manoeuvre and outrun police is far too easy. There needs to be recourse and an ability to follow up with these dangerous road users. Police are way too hamstrung by the lack of initial laws to prevent a lot of these issues that are going to be hard to drag back in. Random breath testing on these e-vehicles should be legislated for the safety of all. Doubling on these vehicles is also a major safety issue. Kids still lack a lot of awareness and understanding on the road as teenagers and are easily led astray by others to participate in these risky behaviours particularly when speed is added to the equation with no concern or understanding of the consequences of an accident. Helmets in these instances is also a concern when often there will only be one helmet between the 2 or 3 on the bike. Having small children not in a safety chair mounted to the bike is also a concern with adults flouting the rules and riding through, or around lights against traffic and at speeds well above those that are safe. As a motorcyclist I am required to wear safety gear, register and insure my vehicle, with these e-vehicles more than capable of exceeding my speed and able to use footpaths and roadside shoulders at great danger to themselves and other road users and pedestrians, while switching between these surfaces with no predictability. Surely the injuries that are presenting to A&E must force the hand of administrators to bring this transport mode under control for the safety of all. This mode of transport, if used correctly, could help a lot with congestion on our roads but shouldn't be at the risk of the community on our roads and footpaths.