

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 650
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Certainly. Here's a concise draft for your submission, tailored to highlight the importance of recumbent e-trikes and the risks of overly restrictive standards for Queensland's e-mobility review: Submission to the Queensland Parliament: Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use Subject: Inclusion of Recumbent E-Trikes in E-Mobility Legislation I am writing to urge the Committee to ensure that any new or revised legislation regarding e-mobility devices in Queensland explicitly allows for the use of recumbent electric trikes (e-trikes). Key Points: • Accessibility and Mobility: Recumbent e-trikes provide essential transport for people with mobility challenges, including those with chronic illnesses, disabilities, or age-related conditions. In my late husband's case, he had COPD and could not walk far, but with e-assist, he was able to travel considerable distances, improving both his physical and mental health by staying active and connected to nature. • Mental Health and Independence: E-trikes offer psychological benefits, reducing isolation and depression by enabling independent movement and social participation. • Throttle Use for Safety: The inclusion of a throttle on e-trikes is critical for riders with disabilities. It allows them to get home safely if they reach their physical limits, without being stranded due to exhaustion. • Risk of Restrictive Standards: Recent changes in NSW have made it illegal to buy or use recumbent e-trikes by requiring specific standards (EN/AS 15194) that narrowly define eligible devices as two-wheeled, upright bicycles. If Queensland adopts similar rules, it would exclude recumbent e-trikes from legal road use, despite their clear benefits for vulnerable groups. • Current QLD Legislation: Queensland's current rules (based on the National Vehicle Standard) sensibly focus on power, speed, and safety, rather than rigid design standards. This approach allows for innovation and inclusion. • Call to Action: I urge the Committee to ensure that any new legislation does not exclude recumbent e-trikes or require standards that are incompatible with their design. The needs of people with mobility issues must be considered, and the bicycle industry alone should not dictate policy. Conclusion: Please ensure that any new e-mobility regulations in Queensland do not inadvertently exclude recumbent e-trikes, and that the voices of users—especially those with mobility challenges—are heard in this process.