

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 656
Submitted by: Simone Saba
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Hi, I'm not an e-bike or e-scooter rider, but I am a driver who regularly sees them on Sydney roads—often without helmets and travelling at high speeds. It's particularly concerning when I see this on notoriously dangerous roads like the Wakehurst Parkway. I'm often left wondering how so many people ride like this daily when it's illegal to ride a bike without a helmet. I frequently see teenagers riding 2–3 at a time on a single bike without helmets. I also see Uber Eats riders and tourists on shared bikes like Lime, which likely don't come with helmets. Many of these riders may not fully understand the risks, prioritising fun or work over safety. It's clear this issue spans all walks of life. A close family friend in the U.S. suffered a severe brain injury in a bicycle accident—he was never the same and passed away much earlier than he should have. His story stays with me and underscores the importance of helmets. I work as a carer, and an elderly mother I support—who uses a walker—has often told me how terrified she feels when teenagers on e-bikes speed along footpaths with no regard for others. She has come close to being knocked over multiple times. It's frightening and unacceptable. I believe a public awareness campaign is urgently needed, along with stronger enforcement. Right now, there seems to be little incentive to comply with the law, and almost no visible consequences for failing to wear a helmet. I understand the risks involved in police pulling over riders on busy roads, but perhaps a better solution would be to issue licence plates for all e-bikes—regardless of age—so that fines can be issued retrospectively. This could improve safety and deter risky behaviour.