Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	687
Submitted by:	Paul Scuffham
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	No attachment

Submitter Comments:

eBikes should not be treated any differently to motorbikes. Both are two-wheeled machines for transport.Motorbikes are powered by a combustion engine and eBikes are powered by an electric engine. Fully electric motor vehicles (cars, busses, heavy vehicles) and hybrid motor vehicles do not have exemptions allowing different road traffic rules to petrol or diesel vehicles. It is incongruous that electric bikes have different rules to bikes that are powered by a combustion engine. eBikes can travel at speeds of 120kph (and eScooters can travel at 80kph). eBikes (and eScooters) should be restricted to road use with other motor vehicles; i.e. these should be banned from footpaths and cycle paths where they can seriously injure pedestrians and traditional human-powered bicycles) In addition, eBikes should have the same rules as any other registered vehicle for on-road use (licensed driver, registered, insured etc). On a related matter, the commercial hire eBikes and eScooters are "dumped" at the end of the ride - often left stood on a footpath or lying across a footpath or grass verge. These are a trip-hazard for those with impaired vision, especially at night. Moreover, these are a nuisance and cause pedestrians to walk onto the road and potentially increase the risk of a traffic accident. The control of commercial hire eBikes and eScooters should follow European countries where these have to be returned to purpose-built facilities. For example, Brisbane did have bike stands to pick-up and return hire bikes long before the Lime Scooters and now eBikes arrived. Having specific places to pick-up and return hire bikes or scooters will reduce the risk of injury and increase the opportunity to hire an eBike as there will be some certainty of knowing where these can be picked-up and ridden to. Of course, hire eBikes and eScooters need to be speed limited to a little more than walking pace.