

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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I commute by bicycle 5 days per week. I'm lucky that most of my journey is on dedicated bike path. This used to be the safest part of my journey. Since the influx of portable mobility devices they have become prevalent on the my commute. The problem is they are not being used in a law abiding manner. This has made the part of my commute that was very comfortable, and safe, into something that is not safe. There are well defined laws in place for the use of portable mobility devices. On very rare occasions the Queensland Police Service situate themselves in a position to enforce the portable mobility laws, but it is nowhere near consistent enough. These laws need to be enforced regularly by the Queensland Police Service (start by sitting in a spot every commute time for a whole week). Then you need to move the enforcement actions further out of the city. I have on a number of occasions reported, with video evidence, these portable mobility devices being used illegally. Queensland Police have not responded to my submissions. What needs to happen - enforce the laws we have, and ban the sale of non-compliant devices, as well as the kits to modify your bicycle to be non-compliant. If you are looking to change laws - Western Australia have a maximum weight of a portable mobility device of 25kgs. This limits the speed and range of devices, but without enforcement any changes to the existing laws is of no value. The laws for portable mobility devices have been in place for some time. It may be worth an education campaign at the same time. Education at point of sale would help, but I understand that not all devices are purchased in bricks and mortar shops. Some are purchased online. A lot of portable mobility devices are ridden by children under the age of 18. It may be worth investigating an education campaign through schools, targeting the parents who may be purchasing the devices for their children. I want to ride to work safely, but with the lack of enforcement of the existing laws that is just not occurring. I do not feel safe on the bike ways and won't until the laws are enforced.