

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I walk outdoors for exercise in my local area every day and have personally encountered several near misses with e-bikes and e-scooters travelling at high speed on the footpath. I feel that it's pure luck that I haven't been hit yet and am concerned that it's only a matter of time before there's a serious accident in my area. Below are some of the incidents that I've observed during my walks:*

A man seated on an e-scooter was travelling in the bike lane of a main road. About 10 metres behind him was a very young girl (she looked approx. 7-8 years old), also travelling on an e-scooter, however she was seated on a milk crate. As the man was travelling ahead of the girl, he did not see that she had veered out of the bike lane and was riding in the middle of a slip lane turning left. There was a line of traffic queued behind her, waiting to turn left.* An oncoming e-bike rounded the corner of a footpath that I was walking on. The bike was travelling at high speed and the man was not wearing a helmet. As there was a hedge bordering the path, I did not see the bike until he was just several metres in front of me. If I had been any closer to the corner, I wouldn't have had time to move out of the way and he would have hit me head on.* On multiple occasions, I have seen groups of 2-3 teenagers riding single e-scooters on both the road and footpath, at speed and without helmets.* A teenager travelling on an e-scooter rode up behind me and overtook me on a footpath one evening. As it was getting dark, I was taken by surprise when the scooter passed me closely at very high speed. It did not have a light or bell to sound its approach.* On various occasions, I've also witnessed near misses between e-bikes/e-scooters and vehicles. It's not uncommon to see e-bikes and e-scooters ridden by children and teenagers at high speeds, without helmets, and with no observance of the road rules. They fly through intersections, disregarding traffic signals and road signs, often riding on the wrong side of the road or in the middle of a traffic lane despite the presence of a bike lane. My personal opinion is that:*

- * The minimum age for e-mobility device riders should be increased to the same as a car.
- * Riders should have to obtain a licence to operate these devices and be required to first pass a safety & road rule test.*
- * These devices should be registered and covered by third party insurance so that riders are accountable for their actions and there is some protection for pedestrians & other vehicles involved in accidents caused by these devices.*
- * E-mobility devices should not be permitted to travel on the footpath.*

E-mobility devices should have improved safety features such as lights and horns.