


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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E Scooter Review Submission

I am a serious recreational cyclist and have been riding on Sunshine Coast and Brisbane roads every second day over the last 12 years. I also walk on the coastal pathway and footpaths. I witness on every ride and walk the ever increasing plagues of e-scooters and e-bikes on both road and pathways and their riders dangerous behaviours and disregard for the “rules” applicable to those devices. The following is a list of such behaviours and the total lack of enforcement of the “rules” by riders of e- scooters and e- bikes:

General

The current approach of allowing children to use e-scooters and e-bikes on public roads and footpath and expecting them to obey rules that even police cant or wont enforce is fundamentally flawed. Like motorbike riders, people buy e-scooters and e- bikes to get a speed fix and any pretext of them saying they just helping to ease road congestion by taking less car trips is just a myth.

Specific

- In 12 years of cycling on conventional bikes, I hardly ever see a police presence on Sunshine Coast’s busiest routes and more recently I am yet to see any police intervening on an illegal e- device use or even cycling in general. I therefore conclude, despite what the Superintendent of Traffic keeps saying (all is good) the police are not interested in enforcing the “law and rules” for e- scooters and e bikes or are just incapable of enforcing the rules as they stand now and are content with passing the buck (transfer the problem to the ambulance and hospital staff to pick up the pieces of the accident victims).
- Most e-riders don’t wear helmets
- Most e-riders don’t obey the speed limits – adults included as they know there is little chance of enforcement
- A lot of e-riders ride on the wrong side of the road, cut corners and disobey other road rules- run through red lights, stop signs , pedestrian crossings etc
- A lot of e-riders are obviously well under the prescribed age- less than 12 years
- A lot of younger e-riders are not supervised by adults
- A lot of e-riders travel at night without lights and are therefore a hazard to motorists and themselves
- A lot of e-riders play chicken with conventional cyclists
- Doubling and trebling are the norm amongst all riders including mature age riders
- How they ride while playing with their phone and juggling a stubbie at the same time is beyond me.
- Riding with dog(s) on long leads is popular on the Sunshine Coast- even on roadways
- Hooning and wheelstands on roads are popular pastimes of young e-riders

- E- bikes are growing in size – some of the throttle types are bigger than motor bikes, some even have side frames attached for surfboards. Obviously too wide for most footpaths and are therefore dangerous.
- Councils footpath and coastal pathway infrastructures are totally inadequate for the size and speed of e- bikes and scooters.
- E-riders openly admit they can easily buy a computer chip from China which will override the machines speed governor and they can go as fast as they like.

Some observations to consider and address:

- This State Government has inherited a growing safety problem for all users of roads and footpaths and needs to reverse the shortsightedness of their predecessor's decisions to allow e-devices to proliferate and continue without a realistic enforcement system
- Please adopt the only workable solution – Put politics aside and follow the lead of most states and ban children's use of e- machines from public places including shopping centres.
- Require all riders of motorised devices to be licenced for those machines and require all motorised machines to be registered
- Ban the throttle type e-bikes from footpaths – just like motorbikes are banned (but not enforced on the Sunshine Coast at least)
- Resource the police to enforce the bans
- Enact clear legislation so that parents of underage e-riders take responsibly for providing the e-machines to their children with fines and demerit points for the adult perpetrators
- Take the previous labor politicians and their Transport Department public servant advisers along to the hospitals and witness first hand the carnage and trauma they have created, allowed to proliferate and have totally mismanaged
- Don't pander to the Chinese manufactures of e- machines and their distributing agents in Qld when they come running for compensation for losses to their irresponsible businesses.