

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the increasing presence of electric scooters (e-scooters) on public roads and shared pathways, and the growing risk they pose to public safety — both for riders and for other road and path users. My stepfather was seriously injured in an incident where he was hit by an e-scooter while riding his road bike on a public road. The impact was significant — he spent eight weeks in hospital and, more than six months later, is still not walking independently. This was not a minor collision. It was life-altering, and yet it received no formal follow-up. When we attempted to report the incident, the police declined to take a statement, stating that because no car was involved, they had no jurisdiction. This highlights a significant gap in accountability and enforcement. As a frequent runner, I have also had several close calls with e-scooters on footpaths — many of which were moving at high speeds, silently and unpredictably. These encounters are not rare, and I now run with increased caution, constantly aware that an e-scooter could appear without warning. There are several fundamental issues that must be addressed:

Lack of Regulation and Enforcement E-scooters are often too fast for footpaths and too unsafe for roads, yet they are being used freely in both environments. Legally, there may be speed restrictions in place, but in practice, these are rarely enforced. I've witnessed scooters travelling at speeds comparable to motor vehicles, weaving through traffic or taking up entire lanes. Yet these users are not required to hold a licence, register their vehicles, or carry insurance.

No Accountability The absence of mandatory licensing or insurance means that when incidents occur — even those involving serious injury — victims are left without recourse. In my family's case, there was no investigation, no liability, and no justice. This would not be acceptable had a car or even a registered bicycle been involved.

A Public Safety Risk E-scooters are silent, fast-moving, and often used by individuals with little or no knowledge of road rules or etiquette. This creates an environment of unpredictability and danger — for pedestrians, runners, cyclists, and drivers alike. In their current, unregulated form, I believe e-scooters are too dangerous to be used on either roads or shared pathways. There needs to be urgent reform to:

- Establish clear rules about where and how e-scooters can be used.
- Introduce mandatory registration and insurance for all e-scooter riders.
- Ensure proper enforcement by law enforcement agencies.
- Create avenues for victims to report incidents and receive support.

I understand the appeal of e-scooters as a sustainable transport option, but public safety must come first. Without stronger regulations, enforcement, and accountability, more people will be seriously injured — or worse — with no protection under the law. Thank you for your time and consideration.