

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 725
Submitted by: Tony Winter
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

My wife, who is visually impaired, and I were at the Benowa Gardens shopping centre on the Gold Coast a few weeks ago to buy a pizza. It was about 6 pm and already dark. When we walked out the pizza outlet I heard some sort of electronic horn. When I turned to look towards the direction of the horn, I saw two young males riding e-scooters and coming towards us at high speed. My wife was not aware of the danger and was about to walk into the path of the e-scooters and I had to pull her back. They flew past us, not even slowing down after the near miss. The area where this occurred was an outdoor eating area with tables and chairs and considered part of the shopping centre. The males in question were not wearing helmets and the e-scooters did not have any lights, which made them even harder to see in the semi darkness of the outdoor area. I tried to find a security guard, but was informed none existed. On another occasion I was heading west in my car along Southport-Nerang Road at Ashmore on the Gold Coast, when I was overtaken by a young girl riding an e-scooter without a helmet. At the time I was travelling at 60 kph and estimate her speed at 70 kph. She was wearing clothes appropriate for office work and was shocked she was travelling so fast. Considering the time of day, I believe she was heading home from work and understand an e-scooter would be a good transport option for a young person, but the speed she was travelling sent a chill right through me. I dread to think the consequences of coming off an e-scooter at that speed, she would have been badly injured or killed. As a parent myself I hate to see a young person doing something unsafe and not realising the danger they are putting themselves in, which could change the course of the life. I also have witnessed numerous incidents of e-scooters and e-bikes operated in an unsafe manner on the Gold Coast, mainly speeding or not obeying road rules. I realise the committee is mainly concerned with e-scooters and e-bikes, but there also has been a proliferation of mobility scooters in recent times. I understand the need of mobility scooters, but when they use them on the road, I believe it is unsafe. An example is when I was travelling north along Hollywell Road at Biggera Waters on the Gold Coast. The road narrows to one lane to cross over Biggera Creek and I noticed the traffic had slowed down to crawl. The reason being that a mobility scooter was on the narrow bridge and travelling at a slow speed to cross Biggera Creek. There was a separate footpath available, but the individual decided to use the road instead. My understanding that mobility scooters are not allowed to travel on the road, but this rule seems to be disregarded more and more as the numbers increase. This is especially concerning when the drivers are quite elderly and, in some cases, forbidden to drive a motor vehicle due to a medical condition. This may not be the forum for mobility scooters, but I think they are related. Thank you for your time.