


## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

<b>Submission No:</b>	727
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
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<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

1. *Benefits of e-mobility (including both Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes) for Queensland;*

There are definite benefits of e-mobility devices when used correctly.

eg Environmental benefits of lower emissions. Reductions in cars on the road and parking space requirements.

However these benefits cannot be put ahead of pedestrian safety on footpaths and road crossings.

2. *Safety issues associated with e-mobility use, including increasing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and community concerns;*

My main safety concern is not for the operators of some e-mobility devices but for the innocent members of the public such as pedestrians using footpaths and crossings, first responders to accidents, motor vehicle drivers that maybe involved in these accidents where some e-mobility users completely ignore the rules that apply to everyone else using roads and footpaths. eg wearing helmets, giving way to pedestrians, speed limits, device modifications, obeying traffic signals and other regulatory devices, operating on the correct side of roads etc

3. *Issues associated with e-mobility ownership, such as risk of fire, storage and disposal of lithium batteries used in emobility, and any consideration of mitigants or controls;*

I do believe all e-mobility devices should have some sort of registration for the owner and the device. Some registration identification should be displayed to assist police and the general public to identify and report misuse. Owners should be responsible for that device and its operator.

I live in a complex with an adjoining building. I have no control over how my neighbours recharge anything with lithium batteries. Nor do I have control of how they dispose of old batteries. This is a complex problem for authorities but has become a fire safety issue. Way above my pay grade.

4. *Suitability of current regulatory frameworks for PMDs and ebikes, informed by approaches in Australia and internationally;*

No comment.

5. *Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches and powers to address dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices;*

The authorities in Qld or any other state for that matter do not have sufficient resources to police the use of roads now along with all the other problems occurring in society they have to deal with without the added burden of e-mobility devices that do not display any identifying material.

Tougher laws, heavier penalties and more policing required.

*6. Gaps between Commonwealth and Queensland laws that allow illegal devices to be imported and used;*

States and Federal Governments have difficulty agreeing on so many things now so if Qld cant get Commonwealth agreement Qld should introduce "confiscate and destroy" rules for illegal e-mobility devices along with heavy penalties. Other states will follow.

*7. Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use; and*

One of the big users of e-mobility devices are school kids. Compulsory, out of school hours parent and student education classes should be held for any student wanting to use these devices to travel to school and an agreement be entered into between the parents, the student, the school and the authorities on the use of these devices to and from school and out of school hours.

Other adults users should be dealt with in the normal licensing ways. le should have a license or permit to operate.

*8. Broad stakeholder perspectives, including from community members, road user groups, disability advocates, health and trauma experts, academia, the e-mobility industry, and all levels of government.*

Like many things in this world today this issue has been let go until it got out of control and a series of disasters such as fatalities has had to happen to bring it to light. The general public, especially pedestrians, have seen this coming since their introduction but nothing was done. Now it will be too difficult to agree on what should be done.

In August2021 my wife, while on our morning walk on a wide open beach in Port Douglas, was hit from behind by a teenage boy riding an electric bike, no hands, with his father. This caused my wife to be spun around and fall heavily and hit her head on the hard sand resulting in her being transported to Mossman hospital by ambulance. Apparently unrelated but she has since passed away from brain cancer on 15December2024.

I regularly walk the footpaths around my area near Bundall Rd/Salerno St intersection on the Gold Coast and I feel unsafe because of the e-mobility users, young and older, travelling past without warning and at speed. Sometimes the school kids are on their back wheel. I will rarely walk along the beach pathway as there seems to be little or no regard for pedestrian safety and little to no policing.