

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into eMobility Safety and Use in Queensland



Summary of Key Points

- eMobility is essential in low-income outer suburbs like Caboolture, where public transport is limited and car ownership is often out of reach.
- Speed, not the device, is the real safety issue in road trauma whether the crash involves a car, motorbike, or eScooter.
- Current laws are inconsistent, confusing, and hard to enforce, putting riders and police in a no-win situation.

We recommend:

1. **Modernise legislation for active transport.** Create clear, enforceable rules tailored to bikes, scooters, and mobility devices, rather than applying car laws to different modes. A user-friendly legal framework improves compliance and helps police do their job.
2. **Invest in safe infrastructure where people already ride.** Focus on practical, low-cost improvements like protected paths and lower-speed streets to prevent injuries and reduce pressure on emergency services.
3. **Support eMobility as a low-cost, commonsense transport solution.** These devices are essential for outer-suburban residents to reach work, shops, or medical care. With smart regulation, they ease congestion, support independence, and reduce welfare reliance.

To the Hon. Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Brent Mickelberg MP

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Inquiry into the safety and regulation of eMobility devices in Queensland.

We represent Get Around Caboolture, a local advocacy group focused on practical, affordable transport solutions in outer-suburban Moreton Bay. Our message is simple: while eScooters and eBikes raise valid safety concerns, they are not the enemy. The real issue isn't what people ride, it's the environment they're forced to ride in.

Speed is the real safety issue – no matter the vehicle

The data is clear: speed is the biggest factor in crash severity. That's not ideology, it's physics. Higher speed means more force, more trauma, and less chance of survival.

We understand personal responsibility matters. But even the most responsible rider or driver can't avoid danger when forced into unsafe infrastructure, mixed traffic, or unclear laws. If personal responsibility is to mean anything, people need safe, legal, clearly understood options, whether they drive or not.

eMobility is a practical solution for those with no other option

Caboolture ranks the most disadvantaged area in Moreton Bay, with a SEIFA score of just 2 out of 100 meaning 98% of residents across the region are better off on key measures like income, education, and access to services. Here, where many can't afford a car and buses are patchy, eMobility isn't a luxury. It's how people get to work, a medical appointment, or buy groceries without walking kilometres in the heat.

We agree safety standards must improve. But bans or heavy-handed enforcement risk punishing those doing their best to stay employed and independent.

The current road rules are inconsistent and impossible to enforce

Laws for eBikes, eScooters, powered wheelchairs, and bicycles shift based on wattage, motor type, footpaths, and even road markings. That's confusing for the public and nearly impossible for police to apply consistently.

If enforcement is to be fair, rules must be understandable. A simplified, unified framework would support compliance and rebuild public confidence, especially for seniors, young people, and those with disabilities who rely on non-car options.

We recommend:

1. Overhaul and unify the legislation for active transport to make compliance simple and enforcement fair.
2. Invest in basic safe infrastructure where these devices are already being used, especially in low-income and outer-suburban areas.
3. Recognise that low-speed mobility reduces car dependency, aligns with government congestion goals, and offers dignity to people doing it tough.

We also offer the expertise of **John Burrill**, a former TMR road rules specialist and valued volunteer in our group, to support this work.

We're ready to collaborate to make Queensland's streets safer for all users, drivers included.

Let's get the foundations right. Because when you build safety into the system, personal responsibility finally has a fair shot.

Sincerely,

Wendy Nash

Founder & Advocate

Get Around Caboolture: More transport choice, less hassle