

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 761
Submitted by: Jen Piaskowski
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Relating to point 2: Safety issues associated with e-mobility use: In 2018 we started to see the introduction of e-bikes and e-scooters on our pathways. This was mainly due to the Hire schemes being launched throughout Australia. Seven years ago they were a rarity, and I think seen as a novelty without anyone really thinking much about them. Since then to now the increase of these 'e-mobility devices' has increased significantly enough that they are now being seen as a source of concern and discussion amongst many of the groups of people that I associate with. Of particular concern are the young teenagers, zooming at great speed down our footpaths, or weaving around our cars on the road, most not wearing helmets, sometimes double or triple dinking on a very large e-bike which is obviously not peddle power assisted. I once asked a young boy how much one of these bikes cost. He told me his was basic and around \$1,800. The concern is that, there are parents who are purchasing these bikes for their children knowing that they are illegal, that these bikes can go beyond the set speed limit, and yet they do not seem to care and there does not appear to be any recourse that the police can take other than just speaking with the parents. These e-bikes and e-scooters are causing deaths, and it is obvious to all that it will only get worse as time goes by. Unfortunately we did not have the foresight of where these novel, fun devices would take us, and so we are now in a position that the 'horse has already bolted' and so are frantically trying to put in place appropriate measures to deal with this concerning situation. I am very glad that the Government is taking this issue seriously. Laws are in place for motor vehicles, motor bikes and general laws for cycling, yet we have failed to put in place appropriate laws for e-bikes and e-scooters. E-bikes and e-scooters have been conveniently dumped into the cycling category group with a slight reference to also following "general road rules". I believe that :

- a specific category and laws need to be put in place for these 'e-mobility devices'.
- age limits as per our driving of cars and motorbikes need to be enforced.
- the same computer-based road test that learners need to pass needs to be enforced so that the operator of the e-bike or e-scooter are taught and pass the road rules.
- I would even go as far as saying that they need to be registered so that Third Party Insurance could cover anyone who has been injured.

I look forward to following the outcome of this submission. Thank you.