


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Queensland Government E-Scooter & E-Bike Rules

E-Scooters

- Max allowed Speed – 25km/hr (only on designated Bike Lanes and allowed roads below)
- Max allowed Speed – 12km/hr (on footpaths and shared paths)
- Must keep left on footpath/shared path and give way to pedestrians/runners.
- Must ring bell or horn to warn pedestrians in time and when safe to pass from behind
- Under 12 years not allowed to ride.
- Riders must be at least 16 yrs old. 12-15yrs old must be supervised by an Adult
- One rider only allowed on a device, no doubling allowed.
- Must wear an approved helmet - all riders.

Where Can you Ride E-Scooters Legally (normal road rules apply in addition)

1. BIKE LANES on roads 50km/hr or less speed limit. (A bike lane is a special marked lane that is marked with a Bicycle Symbol and the word LANE in white paint on the road or a road sign. The road may in addition be painted green) Note – a white verge line with white or yellow bike symbols is NOT a bike lane.
2. ROADS 50km/hr or less with no centre line marking or Islands. Normal road and E-Scooter/E-Bike rules apply. These roads would normally be local residential streets.

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RIDE ON ANY ROADS OTHER THAN ABOVE

E-Bikes

What is a “Legal E-Bike” – it is like a normal bicycle that has pedals, chain and gears but has a motor that gives assistance only when the rider pushes/pedals the bike. It must not have a throttle and not be able to be powered by the motor alone! The legal E-Bike motor must not be greater than 250w max power and the E-Assist must cut out when the bike speed reaches 25km/hr. You can go faster than 25km/hr on the bike by pedalling it alone like a normal bike.

(E-Bikes generally other than above are considered by law to be Motor Cycles and as such come under the same rules requiring registration and licencing.)

ANY E-BIKE OTHER THAN ABOVE IS ILLEGAL ON ALL PUBLIC FACILITIES

Where can you ride Legal E-Bikes

All Roads and Pathways unless signed otherwise. Rules for “Legal” E-bikes are the same as for normal bicycle riders – see the Government rules for cyclists.

In general, on footpaths and shared pathways – keep left, ring bell to timely warn pedestrians when safe to pass from behind, give way to pedestrians. The safety considerations apply to all.

Must wear an approved helmet.

Recommend wearing high visibility clothing and have flashing rear light and rearview mirror.

On roads follow all road rules same as motorists which includes road speed limits applicable.

The Government Rules in Queensland are really quite fair and reasonable, if we as responsible members of society obey the rules and are considerate of others then we should have few problems.

The above is an interpretive summary of the applicable Qld Government Rules/publications.

CURRENT SITUATION – COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL!

1. **Queensland already has a very fair set of rules** in place to ensure safety of all Road and shared pathway users, there is no need to change the rules!
2. The current **rules have not been enforced** apart from a little effort here and there by a few Police Officers. Kids and others are blatantly defying Police and the rules and getting away with it because they are allowed to!
3. There has been **no clear**, simple, hard hitting, to the point advertising, **education** or communication of the law/rules and consequences for breaking them to the Hathe Police which Kids are treating as a joke! (FACT)
4. **Retailers**, not all, but a majority, particularly on Facebook are advertising Illegal E-Bikes and E-scooters clearly being ridden dangerously and illegally on roads and shared pathways, promoting powerful motors and high maximum speeds to young people who see this as normal and FUN! The products they are selling are by and large cheap illegal rubbish, much of it responsible for lithium fires and the spiralling rate of horrific injuries and strain on our hospital system. **THE BIG ISSUE HERE IS THE ILLEGAL SIZE OF THE MOTORS AND NO SPEED LIMITERS!**
5. **Government** – our government should be absolutely ashamed of itself for doing nothing about this problem for so long that it has now become a massive issue! Why in the world would you put a set of laws/rules in place and then not worry about empowering and resourcing your Police department sufficiently to enforce them? Absolutely disgusting! We have now as a result an increasing society of youth who disrespect the Police force and the law, “We can do whatever we like”

WHAT NOW?

You're the Government, you made the rules, you let it get out of hand, It's your job now to **FIX IT!** Time for some simple good old fashioned action!

1. **Advertising** - Implement a straight to the point public advertising campaign that lays the law down in simple to the point facts such as Maximum motor size allowed, which roads/paths you are allowed to ride on and max speeds etc. **AND THE CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING THE RULES.**
2. **Consequences** - You already have fines in place, that's okay for rule breakers who are riding legal equipment. You need to have harsher consequences for those caught riding illegal equipment on public property. I suggest that penalty should be, in addition to the normal fine, confiscation and destruction of the illegal equipment.
3. **Resourcing** – Your Police are already under immense pressure with a society that appears to be getting more out of control, teenage crime, domestic violence and are obviously too understaffed to deal with the E-scooter/E-bike issues we are faced with today. Having said that, it won't take long to bring this issue under control if we are serious about it! Commit to 12 months of temporary extra staffing, who must be equipped with Registered Trail Bikes or similar that can catch these out of control illegal scooter and e-bike law breakers, followed by a guy in a van to collect the illegal equipment for destruction, and the problem will disappear real quick! Yes it's going to cost some \$\$ but you've spent nothing so far!

Come on Queensland, with David's Crisafulli's leadership, you guys can show the rest of the country how to sort out a simple problem!

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