

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitted by: [REDACTED]

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Recent research has shown that the number of people admitted to Queensland hospital emergency rooms after e-scooter accidents has almost doubled in just two years. This figure I believe is not totally accurate as many "minor " injuries do not get reported or are dealt with in local doctor's surgeries. There have been several fatal accidents. It is clear however that injuries and accidents are increasing. There are many statistics on the subject, and I do not wish to clutter my submission with these facts. The e scooters and e bikes present a higher risk for younger people when they are using them, because they lack any road use training. Many of the e scooters and bikes are modified to make them go faster. This practice is particularly dangerous when it is undertaken by young people. Modifications to e bikes in fact often makes them a motor bike. The main problem is that many of the riders of these machines are young and have no concept of the danger. The law as it is in Queensland at the current time is that e scooters and e bikes can not be ridden by a person under 16 years unless they are under supervision. No one under 12 can ride these machines. Every morning I see school children, many at primary school riding the machines to school. They are often travelling at high speed, sometimes up to 65km/h, well over the 12 km/h for use on a pavement/footpath and 25km/h on a road. A simple solution to this problem right now is for schools to ban anyone coming to school on them. Schools should also send out this information to parents advising them that the use of bike and scooters by under 16-year-olds is illegal. By schools allowing their use for school transport in fact means the schools are condoning illegal behaviour and the students will assume they can be used. Future legislation should require, that all E scooters or e bikes be registered. They would require number plates and CTP insurance. Suppliers such as shops would be required to register and insure them before they can be sold in the same way motor vehicles are. Transfer of ownership would be the same as for motor vehicles. Penalties for unregistered machines should be set at a high level. Penalties for modified scooters and e bikes should also be set at a high level. Any modified machines that are involved in an accident where a person is injured should attract a high penalty. The age for riding one in any public area should be set at 16 and above only, nothing under. To ride one a test, like a motorcycle test would have to be undertaken and a licence obtained. It appears that many house fires have started because of e scooters and e bikes. The batteries that are getting used to replace the originals are often not safe because they are cheap. The storage and charging of them is not taken with due care by young people. The result is fires start.