


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	829
Submitted by:	
Publication:	Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland – June 2025

1. Benefits

I can see benefits for **electric bikes**:

- (a) Enabling some older riders to continue to enjoy the exercise and benefits of cycling.
- (b) Very helpful for all ages in negotiating the hilly areas of Brisbane.
- (c) Still requiring physical effort – and therefore part of a healthy and fit lifestyle

I cannot think of a single benefit of e-scooters. They are dangerous for riders and pedestrians. They are mainly ridden for shortish distances of 1 km- 2 km. They require no physical effort by rider. It would be much safer for the community and healthier for the rider to walk those distances.

My comments below are specifically directed to e-scooters. I don't have a problem with the behaviour of bicycle riders or e-bike riders. They have a different mindset; ride more carefully and with consideration of pedestrians vs e-scooter riders who treat pedestrians as target practice.

2. Safety

I can see most submissions have covered safety issues extensively. Some of my specific experiences with e-scooters:

- Seeing school kids in uniform doubling on a scooter flying down Creek Street, Brisbane, the wrong way – i.e. against the traffic!! No helmets of course. Laughing and yahooping.
- My having to physically lift and move two e-scooters on the footpath at Turbot Street to assist a vision-impaired person with a white cane navigate through them.
- Being brushed on the shoulder by an e-scooter rider in Edward Street as he recklessly weaved between pedestrians. When I said “hey, take it easy”, he turned to me and said “you next time”. Charming.
- Turning a pleasant Sunday afternoon walk through Southbank and the Botanic Gardens into an episode of “Survivor” – continually being harassed by erratic e-scooter drivers – several of whom were obviously intoxicated. None of whom wore a helmet nor took any notice of speed regulations.
- Scooters regularly left outside our home on a narrow footpath blocking general pedestrian access along the street as well as specific access to our own home. I have to take time out of my busy day and submit on-line reports to Lime Scooters to request they collect them.
- I've seen a mother, with a baby in a pram, collect her pre-schooler from child-care then have to walk out onto a busy road to get around abandoned e-scooters blocking the footpath because she couldn't manoeuvre a pram past the scooters whilst also holding the hand of a four-year old. So mother, toddler and baby all end up walking uphill on a road, around parked cars, because several thoughtless e-scooter riders block a footpath. What has a civilised society come to when the lives of those innocent people are secondary to the Council's desire to profit from an e-scooter hire scheme?

- Several times nearly taken out by a speeding e-scooter when exiting a building to walk on the footpath. We all look right-left-right when crossing a road but now we have to be prepared to do that (and teach that to our children) when simply exiting a city building!!
- Walking with young children on the footpath has become of nightmare. You have to hold them so close and continually be telling them to watch-out for scooters. Even on the river walkways, you can't let their hand go. So instead of instilling a **love** of walking; we are instilling a **fear** of walking in young kids.
- We live within walking distance of the Brisbane CBD and walk there several times a week. I can't recall the last time I walked to and fro when:
 - I wasn't intimidated by an e-scooter rider
 - I didn't have to walk around e-scooters blocking the footpath
 - I didn't see e-scooter riders flagrantly breaking the rules: speeding; no helmets; doubling; riding erratically. Absolutely no concern for the rule-of-law nor pedestrians.

3. Broader Perspectives

The Brisbane City Council introduced the e-scooter hire scheme. It obviously makes money from it. It has been tone-deaf to the feedback of ratepayers/citizens with regard to safety; threatening behaviour of riders; and blocking of footpaths with abandoned scooters.

The Queensland Government has to absorb the cost of e-scooter hire scheme (and all e-scooter owner riders):

- Huge impost on hospitals and medical staff with ever increasing accidents and injuries. As if our hospitals aren't stretched enough without this added unnecessary dangerous practice being introduced.
- Policing costs. Not that I see a lot of enforcement of the rules. We all see the laws being broken – no helmets; speeding; doubling. I'm yet to see anyone pulled up for these. Our Police Service has more pressing matters to which to attend; why should a highly trained Police Officer be re-assigned from important community safety occurrences to the menial task of issuing fines to delinquent e-scooter riders?

So one arm of government introduces an absolute nightmare of a problem. It profits from it. Another arm of government bears the cost!! If this Inquiry doesn't recommend the cessation of the hire schemes, then at the least it should recommend that the State Government bill the Local Government Councils for the hundreds and thousands of dollars it now costs them to provide hospital, medical, ambulance and police. That should be a wake-up to the Councils. But in the end, it's the ratepayers and taxpayers that pay. Grrh.

It is shocking to regularly read of the deaths and injuries to riders and pedestrians. I personally know of people hit by scooters and subsequently hospitalised with broken bones.

Deaths and injuries are increasing daily. Community safety is threatened.

If people were dying, injured and threatened like this in home break-ins, the Government would be pulling out its “tough on crime” rhetoric.

If people were dying, injured and threatened like this in domestic situations, the Government and the DV organisations would all be out in force rightly condemning the behaviours and perpetrators.

But people in the community are dying, being injured and regularly threatened with e-scooter behaviours, and **no one cares about the pedestrians. Who speaks out for the innocent pedestrians???**

To my mind, e-scooters have been brought in for the enjoyment and thrill-seeking of tweens/teens/millennials. No one in authority has had the gumption to say to this entitled group: “Your joyriding cannot take precedence over the safety of the rest of the community. Your toys are being taken away. You are going to have to walk.”

The first priority of any level of Government is the safety of its citizens. Local and State Governments are abrogating this responsibility by kowtowing to a small group of people.

Reading some of the previous submissions, if this Inquiry doesn’t hear loud and clear that the community is **scared** then all of this has been for nought and **comments and submissions have fallen on the deaf ears of timid leaders.**

Just a few news items relating specifically to deaths and injuries – no doubt you have a record of these and there are many more.

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/how-an-e-scooter-joyride-turned-into-a-fight-for-life-for-11-year-old-queenslander-20250607-p5m5nk.html>

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-06/e-scooter-injury-toll-enormous-perth-hospital-trauma-chief-says/105383108?utm_source=abc_news_app&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_campaign=abc_news_app&utm_content=mail

<https://www.surgeons.org/surgicalnews/Articles/2023/Volume-24/Issue-6/RACS-Trauma-Symposium>

<https://www.racq.com.au/latest-news/news/2023/12/ns191223-data-shows-e-scooter-riders-still-not-taking-safety-seriously>