

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have had concerns about the increasing use of E bikes/Escooters on our local roads and footpaths for over two years. My concerns have turned to frustration and anger at the irresponsible behaviour from underage users as well as adults who should know better and be setting an example to younger people. Although many use these responsibly, unfortunately there are many others that are using these dangerously and posing a risk to themselves, pedestrians and motorists also. I am astounded to see such dangerous behaviour with no apparent consequences. My work requires me to be driving with elderly people and travel in between as well as community outings. I am very concerned for the safety of these people I care for in the community and am extra cautious now due to the irresponsible behaviour of these users riding at high speeds on footpaths and throughout shopping strips and shopping centre car parks. This behaviour is obviously contributing to the huge increase in hospitalisations on the Sunshine Coast especially as reported recently in the media. Some of the dangerous behaviour I see almost every day is children riding these e bikes/scooters at well over the permitted 25km per hour speed limit. I often see children travelling at speed up Nicklin way in traffic at speed and on the one rear wheel only showing off. Many users do not wear helmets and also double dink. I often am travelling in traffic and see these unregistered bikes/scooters exceeding the actual road speed limit as they are pulling away from me in traffic. I feel there should be a police blitz on this behaviour and if these scooters are capable of exceeding 25km per hour they should be banned unless they are registered and have compulsory insurance to protect other road users from financial loss in an accident. There are many local school children riding dangerously, without helmets and dinking a friend so maybe the schools could play a greater role in not allowing these to be kept at school grounds to discourage this use. I feel the best solution to this crisis is to register all of these e-bikes/scooters so there is accountability for dangerous behaviour and breach of road rules as is the case for other road users in cars, trucks and motor cycles. Alternatively I think there should be heavy fines for irresponsible parents that allow their children to use these dangerously and without supervision or training. Even heavier fines for adult users that use these dangerously as they should know better. I am very concerned for the safety of the elderly and vulnerable people I support in the community. Many are hearing or vision impaired and quite frail. They are at serious risk of injury just walking along the footpath now we have these E-bikes and scooters moving around at high speeds in pedestrian areas.