

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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For 28 years I have been conducting a Fitness, Triathlon and Coaching Squad on the Gold Coast. As you can imagine I am out within the community for many hours on a daily basis. Over the 18 months to 2 years I have watched the safety of the community with regards to e-bikes and scooters deteriorate to a level that is not just unacceptable but horrendous. A huge majority of my coaching is conducted within junior triathlon and cycling and over the last 6 months especially, our training has been impacted by the disgusting, unsafe and dangerous behaviour of these youth operating these devices on our local roads and footpaths. My squad kids have been harassed by e-bikes gang type groups and individuals,, taunted whereby they have even ridden alongside my young athletes threatening to knock them off in areas near Merrimac Highschool, Rio Vista Blvd and Barrier Reef drive. Whilst conducting a children adventure holiday program within pizzey park, Miami we have been targeted by gang type groups riding straight at coaches as well as our young participants as old as 5 yrs old. Whilst coaching in the same park I have witness elderly people almost run down by these bikes on a new bridge and path built near their retirement units which the elderly utilise for access to the Pizzey park area for walking and light exercise. Over the last 6 months I have had a decline in the number of children participating in my cycle programs due to the impact of this dangerous behaviour. Not a reflection of our coaching but communication from the parents that they just feel that their children aren't safe due to e-bikes users and their violent behaviour. I have since moved locations however we are very limited as to where we can coach bike riding due to the e-bike safety issues. So now we not only have these e-bikes/scooters impacting in a way that is reducing the participation levels of young athletes/kids looking to get fit , healthy and happy.As a Coach I am both frustrated and quite frankly very disappointed in the fact that the previous Govt allowed this behaviour to go unchecked for such a long period of time. It's time for change, time for the good people of the community to push back and call for safety and respect for everyone within every community of every town and city in Queensland. Zero tolerance for excessive speed on footpaths and zero tolerance for them to be operated on public roads under age or unlicensed.Please show that the good citizens of the community matter by putting laws in place to stop this horrendous and disrespectful behaviours by both e-bikes and e-scooters users.

Regards,Jenny Barwick