

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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My submission relates to public e-scooters for hire. Public transport options in regional Queensland are severely limited. E-scooters offer people a cheap and convenient alternative for travel in towns where bus services are limited or non-existent, and the numbers of taxis and Ubers are low. E-scooters are also a fun, low-cost way for tourists to experience our beautiful coastal environs such as The Strand in Townsville and The Esplanade in Cairns. Sadly, there are those who misuse scooters endangering themselves and other road users, not to mention pedestrians. It is concerning that local authorities and the State Government appear to be moving towards "blanket legislation" for e-scooters that encompasses ALL scooter users and penalises the vast majority of people who use them lawfully and conscientiously. More and more "no ride zones" are also being implemented which just makes e-scooter hire pointless in many cases, depriving people of a vital public transport option. The committee must remember that public transport outside of Brisbane is appalling and it should lean more towards allowing more freedom to use these devices rather than clamping down across the board. The answer is to impose draconian penalties for misuse so that individuals doing the wrong thing are targeted rather than good, law-abiding and safe riders. More education would also be preferable to implementing laws that inhibit everyone's access to public e-scooters. The LNP claims to be the party of personal liberty and responsibility, but increasingly it is following Labor's path of targeting all of society for action on problems instead of targeting actual wrongdoers. In summary: * Hire e-scooters should be encouraged, especially in regional areas with limited and non-existent public transport * New laws should target actual wrongdoers instead of the majority who use e-scooters responsibly * Increase education to promote safer e-scooter use * Increase penalties for misuse.