

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

For the past 18 years I have successfully used a 3-wheel mobility scooter to access the community for shopping, appointments and other mobility requirements and I make use of the disability access on both buses and trains. The scooter I use is small, limited to 6kmh and is able to be used by people with limited dexterity instead of an electric wheelchair. Sharing the footpath with e-bikes and 2-wheel scooters have caused several close shaves over the last couple of years, mainly due to the speed that they are traveling at and the inexperience of riders, most of which are on local hired scooters. I understand the need for an inquiry into this matter as I myself have adopted a procedure when seeing 2-wheel scooters of giving a very wide berth as well as looking over the shoulder when changing direction or stopping. With the number of incidents and accidents on shared footpaths it is clear the legislation needs changing, new legislation should take into account speed on shared thoroughfares, wearing of safety equipment, age and experience of riders and education on safe use. My concern to any changes is that the new ruling might indirectly limit my access to the community. The ruling that was introduced a few years ago stating that you have to dismount to another seat when using a mobility taxi where a scooter is involved has had a drastic impact. If you cannot weight bear on your legs to transfer to another seat it rules out another alternative means of transport which I assume was not the intention, these scooters are able to be secured in a mobility taxi with the same securing device as used for an electric wheelchair along with seatbelt. Due to these past changes which I have found very limiting, I am writing to voice my concerns that any new legislation regarding the use of scooters could affect my community access. I would appreciate this being taken into account when implementing any new legislation as this is my primary mode of transport.