

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 881
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

E bikes are fast becoming a major mode of transport but also a tool for crime. They are unregulated and in many cases go as fast as a car. Whilst safety is an issue with speed and rider experience, I feel that these bikes need to be traceable to counteract crime and for citizens to report to police. A possible solution is to enforce registration of these bikes (similar to golf carts, mobility vehicles for the elderly, trailers and even bike racks on cars). 1. Have a registration fee and issue a mini number plate similar to those currently available for bike racks for cars 2. Allow people to add it to their current vehicle registration as a nominal or free extra and just charge for the numberplate 3. Ensure all E bikes have a visible registration plate for identification purposes with appropriate fines for those that don't. This will ensure traceability for police but perhaps accountability for riders and in fact parents of minors. 4. Have an attachment manufactured that attaches to the seat post or back of bike so the number plate can be fitted to existing bikes. 5. Once regulated then manufacturers will have to ensure e-bikes have means for a number plate to be fitted. E bikes are a great transport tool and lots of fun but they are a "vehicle" and travel at great speeds compared to a normal bicycle (for most riders) and so should be treated as such. I have been pushed off footpaths by almost silent e bikes travelling at fast speed more times than I can count. Often by inexperienced riders who do not have the capability to avoid collision under pressure. I do not believe they should be on pedestrian footpaths nor should they be a bicycle for children to use in a motorbike fashion. It's time to regulate them. Users should have to abide by road rules and if you are not old enough to understand the road rules then you are not old enough to be on one. Parents need to be held accountable for minors and this can only be done when they are required to register the bikes under their own name. Adults or those over 16 years are responsible for themselves. There can be separate rules for e-vehicles based on their size and speed. They should be known as E-vehicles as a mode of electric transport just as some cars are electric. It's time to start protecting people.