


## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	
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## SUBMISSION TO PARLIMENTRY ENQUIRY ON E BIKES AND E SCOOTERS.

### A. E BIKES.

1. Under Qld laws , any motorised bike is non-compliant and can't be ridden on public roads or paths if it has any of the following:
  - a petrol-powered or internal combustion engine
  - an electric motor capable of generating over 200 watts (that isn't an electrically power-assisted cycles)
  - an electric motor that is the primary source of power.

For example, if your bike has a petrol-powered engine attached before or after purchase, it is non-compliant. If your bike's electric motor can help up to speeds in excess of 25km/h without cutting off, it is non-compliant. If your bike has non-functioning pedals that do not propel the bike, it is non-compliant. If you can twist a throttle and ride your bike using the bike's motor power only, without using the pedals, it is non-compliant.

**Non-compliant bikes may only be ridden on private property with no public access.**

**THESE LAWS ARE CURRENTLY NOT BEEN ENFORCED BY THE POLICE WHO ALREADY ARE UNDERSTAFFED.**

***Why were these laws introduced initially, because the law makers could foresee the multiple problems arising from their use!***

2. **These motor bikes are not eco friendly** as they are made from Steel, Aluminium, Rubber, Plastic and Lithium resulting in an environmental burden from mining and manufacturing, with limited resources to recycle them when they are disposed of. There already been several fires releasing toxic fumes caused by incorrect charging of these bikes.  
**Many people who used to walk or cycle to work are now using these bikes so no nett eco benefit is been gained.**

3. **E motorbike use doesn't not improve the health of the community.**

No aerobic effort is required riding them compared with normal bicycles and E bicycles. They are been ridden by under aged riders who gain no health benefits from their use.

They are resulting in higher accidents putting an increasing burden on Hospitals/Emergency Clinics and Paramedics. Many riders aren't wearing an Australian Standard Helmet. Head injury patients require extensive care and therefore high cost. The riders pay no insurance to cover these costs. The Qld hospital system is already over stretched.

The bikes weight from 30kg upwards and if ridden at speed can result in horrific injuries to both the rider and pedestrians they hit

As they are been ridden on footpaths and are largely silent, they are disproportionately causing stress to older people, young families and people with disabilities using these amenities. I live on the Southern Gold Coast and have nearly been hit several times walking on the coastal path. There already have been several accidents on that path.

I have been riding/racing bicycles for over 60 years and own E bicycles that must be pedalled – no throttle involved. It's the E motorbikes that need banning!

#### **WHAT SHOULD THE QLD GOVERNMENT RESPONSE BE?**

- Wide- spread advertising for a 4 week period, that these motorbikes are illegal.
- If the owners want to keep them and ride them on public roads, they need to make sure the bikes are licenced and compliant with Australian Standards for motor bikes.
- The rider must be licenced.
- Helmet use is mandatory
- They are completely banned from footpaths, bike paths and walkways.
  
- If any rider is caught breaking the current laws, the bike is confiscated and dismantled with the components sent for recycling. No compensation is paid to the owner/rider. Penalties/ Fines need to be enforced.

#### **B. E SCOOTERS.**

Most of the above document applies to E scooters. They tend to have a shorter life cycle of around 2-3 years so are not Eco friendly or have a reduced carbon footprint especially if Public Transport is available.

As they have smaller wheels, tend to have more accidents due to uneven riding surfaces.

They are often left in places that cause problems for people with disabilities.

This why many countries overseas are banning their use. 90 % of Paris citizens voted for them to be banned.

In the Netherlands, the most bicycle friendly population has banned e scooters on roads and public places. They are also banned in Malta, Madrid and Barcelona.

Licences are required in Finland and Italy.

So why is Queensland wanting to embrace their use??