

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 900
Submitted by: Ben Vawdrey
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I write to you as an E-Bike user who purchased my bike in late 2024 under the E-Mobility grant scheme. My primary use has been for commuting to work and accessing local amenities. I've found great enjoyment and peace of mind in leaving my car at home, opting instead for a more environmentally sustainable and convenient form of transport. After experiencing firsthand the benefits of E-Mobility, I am a strong advocate for its potential to reduce infrastructure strain, improve environmental outcomes, and support the general health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. I am fully in support of E-Bike adoption and encourage others to explore the benefits I've experienced over the past nine months. However, I have growing concerns regarding the legal clarity, cohesion, and safety of current legislation governing E-Bike use. As an adult and holder of an unrestricted R class licence, I find aspects of the existing laws overly restrictive and not reflective of current E-Bike technology. At the same time, I share the concerns of many about the misuse of E-Bikes—particularly by youth—who often disregard regulations and, in doing so, risk undermining public support for this valuable mode of transport. I believe there is room for legislation to evolve. For example, increasing the allowable continuous power limit and throttle speed could better match current technology and usage needs. However, such changes should be balanced by safeguards—perhaps through age restrictions, or limited registration and licensing—to help ensure inexperienced or younger users do not misuse these more capable machines. E-Bikes offer an excellent opportunity to reduce congestion, alleviate environmental pressures, and promote healthier, more active lifestyles. But the legislation must keep pace—not only to unlock these benefits more broadly, but to prevent the growing availability of what are, in effect, E-Motorbikes from becoming a safety issue, especially among youth and less experienced riders. Thank you for considering this submission. Sincerely, Ben V