


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I am writing as a concerned member of the community to urge government bodies and local councils to implement stronger safety regulations around the use of e-scooters and e-bikes. While these devices offer a convenient and environmentally friendly mode of transport, there is an urgent need to address the growing risks they pose to public safety—especially to children and other road users.

1. Protection of Children Under 16 Children under the age of 16 are frequently seen riding e-scooters and e-bikes without helmets, at unsafe speeds, and without a proper understanding of road rules or spatial awareness. Research shows that brain development—particularly in areas related to risk assessment and decision-making—is not fully mature in younger teens. This places them at significantly greater risk of injury or death, and also increases the chance of accidents that affect others. Mandatory age limits and helmet enforcement must be introduced and policed. Just as with bicycles and motor vehicles, safety education and age-appropriate restrictions are essential to protect both the rider and the wider community.

2. Lack of Accountability and Registration A significant concern is the rising number of incidents where e-scooter and e-bike riders cause damage to vehicles, pedestrians, or public property—and there is no recourse. Without a registration system or mandatory insurance, there is no accountability for the rider. In many cases, drivers are left to bear the cost of repairs despite not being at fault. Introducing mandatory registration and third-party insurance for e-scooters and e-bikes would bring these vehicles in line with other modes of transport and ensure fair responsibility in the event of damage or injury. It would also deter reckless behaviour, as riders would be identifiable and held accountable for their actions.

3. Community and Road Safety The current lack of enforceable rules creates confusion and danger on shared paths, footpaths, and roads. Pedestrians, especially the elderly and young children, are vulnerable to sudden, high-speed encounters with e-riders who often have little regard for others' safety. More defined regulations—including speed limits, no-ride zones, and enforcement through fines—are essential to restore balance and safety to our shared public spaces.

In Summary To ensure e-scooters and e-bikes are safely integrated into our transport network, I strongly recommend:

- Enforcing a minimum age limit of 16 for independent riding
- Mandatory helmet use with fines for non-compliance
- Introduction of registration and third-party insurance
- Clear speed limits and no-ride zones, especially around schools and pedestrian-heavy areas
- Public education campaigns on safe usage

It is time for legislation to keep pace with technology. With appropriate safeguards, we can encourage safe, responsible use of e-scooters and e-bikes while protecting vulnerable road users and pedestrians.