Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have been in the bicycle industry for over 30 years. I have also had the privilege of servicing over 18 years combined with Queensland Police Service, South Australia Police and am currently part time with Queensland Department. I currently own a bicycle shop in Agnes Water. I have seen both sides of the introduction to electric mobility devices from a bicycle industry representative to the emergency services perspective.My thoughts in brief are as follows:I feel E scooters are not a safe mode of transport and need to be heavily regulated or banned. The combination of direct steering above small wheels with electric power results in a mobility device that is very unstable , any quick or emergency steering will likely cause the rider to fall off. Even small road imperfections can cause an accident. Riders often double which only enhances the poor ride qualities and makes the device even harder to operate safely. E bicycles on the other hand I feel need some regulation adjustments back the other way. They are safe form of cycling that opens up so many transport opportunities to the public as an alternative to motor vehicles . Most of these bikes have very good braking systems and steering control. A cyclist on a regular bicycle can comfortably ride at 35km/h in many situations and I feel the speed limit of e-bikes needs to be comparable and changed to 32km/h as in other parts of world . I feel the 250 watt motor limit is also not realistic with the benefits of an ebike not being able to be used when a hill is involved . A 250 watt power output is not adequate. Having said those things law enforcement need to focus on those doing the wrong thing. Those riding in a dangerous manner , at speeds too fast for multi use paths , or riding heavily over powered devices.I hope these comments can assist .Kind Regards Ciaron Rush