


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

<b>Submission No:</b>	934
<b>Submitted by:</b>	
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission public but withholding your name
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	

Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use in Queensland

Date: 19th June 2025

Contact Details: [To be supplied separately]

Terms of Reference Addressed:

- (2) Safety issues associated with e-mobility use
- (3) Ownership issues including lithium batteries
- (4) Suitability of current regulatory frameworks
- (5) Effectiveness of enforcement approaches
- (6) Gaps between Commonwealth and Queensland laws
- (7) Communication and education
- (8) Community perspectives

Statement as a Concerned Citizen

I write as a Queensland resident deeply concerned about the increasing misuse of e-bikes and e-scooters - especially by young people - and the clear gaps in regulation, enforcement, and rider accountability.

While e-mobility provides important environmental and transport benefits, the current system allows dangerous riding behaviours, unregistered and uninsured devices, and modified machines operating beyond legal limits, creating risks to the community.

Key Issues

1. Dangerous and Irresponsible Riding by Youths

I regularly witness children and teenagers riding e-bikes and e-scooters recklessly:

- At unsafe speeds on footpaths and roads
- Performing wheelies and carrying passengers
- Without helmets or protective gear

There is a widespread perception among these riders that they are above the law, and enforcement powers are insufficient to deter or sanction such behaviour.

## 2. Lack of Registration and Owner Identification

Currently, no registration system exists for these devices. This severely hampers:

- Enforcement against reckless or illegal use
- Recovery of stolen bikes and scooters
- Accountability for damages and injuries

I strongly recommend introducing a mandatory registration scheme with visible ID plates or stickers to identify compliant devices and their owners.

## 3. Insurance and Liability Must Be Mandatory and Practical

At present, there is no clear pathway or public understanding for insurance on e-mobility devices.

This leaves victims of accidents without compensation and riders without liability coverage.

Mandatory insurance should be introduced as a legal requirement for all motorised e-mobility devices used in public spaces.

However, insurance providers currently face significant barriers, including:

- Complex regulatory compliance requirements
- High costs of product development

- Lack of government incentives

Therefore, I urge the Queensland Government to take an active leadership role by:

- Providing targeted funding or subsidies to insurers to develop affordable, tailored insurance products for e-mobility devices.
- Simplifying regulatory processes to enable faster insurance product rollout, akin to the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) model for motor vehicles, but adapted for low-speed electric devices.
- Collaborating with Commonwealth authorities and insurance regulators to harmonise legislation and standards, enabling efficient, cost-effective delivery of insurance cover.

Without such government intervention and incentives, mandatory insurance will remain a theoretical goal with little practical uptake, undermining rider accountability and public safety.

#### 4. Invisible Modifications and Illegal Devices

Many e-bikes and scooters capable of speeds well beyond legal limits are modified or imported illegally, yet are visually indistinguishable from compliant devices. This loophole makes enforcement difficult and dangerous.

I recommend:

- Mandatory visible compliance labels indicating device class and speed/wattage limits.
- Banning import, sale, and modification of devices exceeding legal limits.
- Enforcement powers to confiscate or destroy non-compliant devices.

#### 5. Enforcement Powers Are Insufficient

Police currently lack adequate tools to:

- Identify illegal or modified devices
- Impose meaningful sanctions on offenders

- Confiscate dangerous vehicles or deter repeat offences

Stronger enforcement powers are essential, including:

- Authority to inspect, confiscate, and impound devices
- Ability to issue fines and demerit points where applicable
- Mechanisms to hold parents accountable for underage riders using adult-purchased devices.

## 6. Public Education and Awareness

There is a clear need for comprehensive education campaigns targeting:

- Young riders and their parents about legal requirements and risks
- The general community on reporting unsafe or illegal riding
- Retailers and online platforms on their responsibilities

## Conclusion

E-mobility offers many benefits but currently poses significant risks due to insufficient regulation, lack of registration and insurance, and weak enforcement. Without decisive government action to introduce mandatory registration, enforceable insurance schemes, visible compliance standards, and strengthened police powers, public safety will continue to be compromised - especially among youth riders.

Thank you for your consideration.