


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I want to comment on the experiences of my father and myself when it comes to e-mobility. My father was 85 years old when he got an e-bike. For him it gave him back the fun of bike riding as well as personal autonomy as he had given up his driver's license some years earlier. He often said the bike gave him wings because it allowed him to go to places that he previously would have needed to get 3 buses to get to. Now he could come and go as he pleased. Being 85, and living in camp hill, a regular bike was too difficult for him to ride. The only hardship he had came from the lack of infrastructure so he either had to ride on uneven footpaths that were not made for bike riding or on the road which is often dangerous as cars do not always give enough room. For myself, I started using electric bikes for school drop off and pick up and travel to work 7 years ago. I recently upgraded to a more powerful cargo bike. The earlier e bikes I had were fine for one child and short journeys but could not replace a car. My cargo bike has the capacity to carry both my kids and groceries so is a true car replacement. By having this bike I am able to get my kids to school faster than in a car as I avoid all the school traffic and I don't need to park which places much less strain on roads, less pollution and as a bonus I get some exercise. I have chosen to ride e-bikes as I have stage 4 cancer so I often do not have the energy to ride a regular bike. The e-bike gives me the ability to get some exercise without having to strain too much on days that I struggle to get around. I think e vehicles should be being promoted by government as they cost less taxpayer dollars to maintain the infrastructure than cars. But the investment in to linking bike paths needs to be improved. The vekoway is great, but only once you get on it. Often there are not good routes leading to it, or bike paths marked on roads just suddenly vanish and you find yourself out in traffic. My one complaint about e-bikes and scooters comes from those that are not made in accordance with the speed limiters on them. I often ride on the vekoway and have e-scooters fly past me even though I am going at 25km/h. Often those riding have no helmet and certainly no protective clothing. I never see any attempts by police or any enforcement of the rules. I don't think it would take a lot of time for people to get the idea that these vehicles arent tolerated and get you more fines and your vehicle confiscated more than you'd like. If there was a concerted blitz for 3 months, then one off days once a week after that, people would soon stop purchasing those or modifying regular e bikes and scooters. In summary I think e-bikes and scooters should be celebrated for the reduction in traffic, the increase in exercise and value for families. Government should appreciate the opportunities they provide and savings they make. However, a stronger effort I enforcing the laws around speed and helmet use needs to be undertaken.