

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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My experience with e-scooters and e-bikes has not been a good one. Many of the young people riding them do not have full control over the vehicle they are riding. For me (and many others) the consequences colliding with e-scooter/bike as I go for my daily walk could be devastating. As a widow who lives in a 3 level home I would be extremely angry if my lifestyle was taken away because of the blatant disregard a young person on an EB/S clearly has. What has happened to the rules we all learnt as young people riding push bikes? Indicating that we are turning, stopping or the common courtesy we afford all on the road. Recently two young girls riding together (dinking on the bike) on a busy Saturday morning were swerving in and out of the crowd on the wrong side of the pathway, clearly not confident or competent and expecting all pedestrians to give way to them. I witnessed a young man lose control of his ES while riding through Coolum Beach, when his brakes failed at the lights. He wasn't wearing any footwear. His foot was in an absolute mess. Speaking with another elderly woman who lives at The Element in Coolum, she expressed her concern should she be hit by a bike or scooter walking down the footpaths in town. She is blind in one eye and her son, who has a disability and would not be able to manage in his own, have frequently felt riders passing too close to her, brushing against her and causing alarm and anxiousness. She has taken to hitting out at anyone who scares her by approaching at speed from behind. For the elderly, sorry is too late if they receive any injuries that means they can't return to their homes. Nor is it appropriate that the only thing an elderly person feels they can do, is to hit out a perpetrator.

Because EN/S pass at speed, you are often not aware they are coming up from behind. Most don't acknowledge they are approaching (this includes push bikes) which adds to the danger, not to mention the lack of respect for pedestrians and the drivers of other vehicles. (Failing to use basic road safety rules when riding on the road, such as indicating you are turning, is not acceptable from a car. Why is it ok for a EB/S?) You take your life into your own hands when you walk in the mornings or afternoon, when Coolum High School students are going to and from school. There are very few who are polite and pass slowly, ringing their bells. Recently at Peregrine Springs I witnessed a young man on an E-bike riding at speed down a path. I was the passenger in a car driven by a friend. Two elderly women on the path quickly moved to the side and he yelled at them. (They may have said something to him?) He was laughing. When I showed my disapproval, he rode in front of my car, filming me on his phone, in the car behind. He slowed down, then sped up, finding the whole thing hilarious. I've also witnessed EB/S weaving between cars at Peregrine Springs shopping centre, abusing drivers (who have possibly reprimanded them earlier) and laughing during very busy times in the car park. I saw the same thing happening at the lights in Coolum Beach, where drivers have got angry with EB/S users and the young people riding these bikes/scooters thought it a huge joke and were taunting the drivers. When I called to them to stop, a whole crowd of boys (very early teens) on their EB/ approached me. I spoke to them and they weren't rude but when I asked how they might feel if it was their grandparents or friends in the car and what their parents might think about what they were doing, they said they were foster children.

The number of times I've seen EB/S riders speeding through Coolum on David Low Way past the shops, grabbing the side of a vehicle and holding on, or passing on the left hand side of a vehicle at speed while the traffic is dense, is unbelievable. The number of times I've felt at risk walking on the boardwalk at Coolum, is too many to count. I can only reiterate, if I get hit by an EB/S I will be very angry. If my life is turned upside down by the disrespectful behaviour of a young person riding such

a bike/scooter and who has no understanding of the danger they hold in their hands, their naivety and youth will not be any excuse. might think, they claimed to be foster children.