

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

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am making a submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry on personal e-mobility devices.

There are many growing dangers associated with their use in Queensland, especially in my home area of Burleigh Waters. In this submission I would like to outline my concerns which a cohort of friends and family of all ages and gender have validated. My opinions are based upon my life experience as a retired registered nurse caring for injured or deceased riders, as a licenced driver and as a retired cyclist. To assist your committee, where appropriate, I have suggested feasible options for making these e-mobility devices safer for riders, drivers, and pedestrians.

### **Lack of awareness of basic road rules, restrictions, and principles of safe shared spaces**

In the last year my family and I have been driving safely around the Gold Coast and have witnessed several occasions where e-mobility devices riders have ignored red lights, turned into or across ongoing traffic, failed to slow down when cars are pulling out from curbs, overtaken vehicles on the right-hand side and frequently exceeded the speed limits. Many of these events have occurred in or near to school zones during peak hours. To address these concerns, it is my belief that the Queensland government should study the feasibility of introducing mandatory testing and licensing of e-mobility devices riders, a mandatory process of e-mobility devices registration and enforceable, uniform speed limitation settings for every e-mobility device.

### **Lack of warning mandatory device and silent nature of these vehicles**

Whilst the electric nature of these vehicles is kind to the environment their silence on approach creates an environment where car driver and pedestrian situational awareness is compromised. For all ages and particularly for the young and the elderly their response times are always slow and this immediately places them at risk of normal situational awareness collision or accident. This is particularly the case in shopping centre carparks and school pick-up zones where there is large volume pedestrian activity. I suggest that the Queensland government consider banning personal e-mobility device use in school zones and shopping centres. A first step could be mandating use of a horn or bell to alert drivers and pedestrians to oncoming e-mobility devices.

### **Speed in excess of cars and other registered vehicles**

I am advised by my local member, Mr Hermann Vorster MP, that it is common for owners to illegally increase the maximum capacity of their e-mobility devices. There is currently no enforceable speed limit for these devices and I have witnessed many occasions in residential areas where they have significantly exceeded the enforceable car speed limits. Ideally new regulatory or legal mandates would make it illegal for owners and riders to override the capacity of their e-mobility device as purchased and to exceed existing speed limits. These legal instruments would need to be enforced. As such, they inevitably require increased patrols by Queensland police who we know are already resource-poor. Is there an opportunity for council officers/ inspectors to assume increased powers and issue fines and notices?. Issuing of any infringement notices would require a central registry of e-mobility devices, display of a licence plate and a licencing process and use of a point system for e-mobility device riders. The existing cars and motorbike models could be adapted to include e-mobility devices.

### **Increasing flagrant disregard for safety helmets**

The most commonly witnessed disregard for safety by e-mobility device users is undoubtedly their lack of routine protective helmet use. The ongoing nature of this issue presents Queenslanders with the inevitability that the numbers of injured or dead e-mobility device users will increase. The emotional and economic burden and pain of these often-preventable outcomes are surely significant enough to warrant immediate remedial and legislative and educational changes by the Queensland government to improve safe e-mobility device use.

### **Increasing numbers of riders on single vehicles**

Your committee will also be aware of the also increasing trend of multiple riders on a single e-mobility device. Locally I have observed on multiple occasions two and sometimes as many as three teenagers on a single e-mobility device. Often these events appear to peak in after-school or school holiday times. Just as we have major policing crackdowns for drivers during holiday periods why could this not extend to e-mobility devices riders?

### **“Pack” mentality and threatening/ intimidating behaviour of menacing riders**

Locally there have been reports of “gangs” of e-mobility device riders cruising and damaging public park areas. At Pizzey Park, Miami this resulted in the need for high-cost repairs to public amenities. Similarly, on my street, Dunlin Drive, Burleigh Waters my family, neighbours and I have had our cars “egged” on a major roundabout where we have slowed to drive safely through. The offenders are both menacing and dangerous. Their ability to rapidly flee the area after their disgusting behaviour is even more frustrating. Surely by more prominent use of surveillance cameras or police patrols this deviant behaviour can be eliminated. If patrols and surveillance are not enough financial disincentives, fines, penalties or restrictions on the e-mobility device user or their parents’ or guardians’ licences could result in a higher regard for decent, safer community use of e-mobility devices.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important piece of work. Just as the Chrisafulli government has clamped down on juvenile crime, it is now time to extend that vigilance to re-taking responsibility and accountability for making Queenslanders safer on roads, pathways, and precincts. Failure to do so will result in increased e-mobility devices-related deaths and disabilities.

Yours sincerely

Sue Resnik