

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

My concern relates to public safety of pedestrians around e-mobility scooters based on my observations and experiences and comments from my network on the Sunshine Coast. I find the behaviour of the majority of teenage e-scooter riders alarming which can probably be attributed to their immaturity and lack of experience leading to poor decision making and inability to anticipate likely consequences. I believe it is grossly negligent of government to allow young people not yet eligible to hold a driver's license and with little understanding of the responsibilities of law abiding licensed road users to acquire and ride e-scooters. Judging from the number of young e-scooter riders flaunting the law, education is not the answer. They are well aware of the rules. They do not want to follow rules nor are they interested in being educated. We don't have to look too hard to see that attitudes of the majority of e-scooter riders match the attitudes of those who drive on our roads with little regard for the law. Government needs to acknowledge that they have created a monster and now need to make hard decisions and regain control. I fear for the safety of all people as I see e-scooter riders riding flat out along footpaths and roads with no regard for pedestrians who might unwittingly step into their path. In particular, I fear for little children, disabled and elderly people who are not able to protect themselves from the recklessness of others. Lives are at risk of being ended and changed forever by the reckless disregard of irresponsible e-scooter riders. I observed in Caloundra an elderly man being brushed and almost knocked over when an e-scooter swept past him on a footpath at high speed. I was shocked and saddened to see the e-scooter rider roar laughing as he glanced back two or three times. Gandhi said, "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members". Food for thought and hopefully action.