

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use in Queensland

Submitted by:

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Terms of Reference addressed: 1, 2, 5, 7 and 8

Executive Summary

BRAKE Driver Awareness welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use. As a not-for-profit delivering evidence-based road safety education to over 80,000 Queensland students, BRAKE has recently piloted a new PMD and E-bike safety module in response to growing concerns.

This submission outlines the behavioural risks associated with young riders, the importance of a proactive education strategy and the role BRAKE is prepared to play in supporting this effort.

The submission also proposes targeted expansion across three key age groups and encourages government collaboration to scale education efforts through established delivery mechanisms.

Introduction

This submission is provided by John Duncan, Chief Operating Officer of BRAKE Driver Awareness, a Queensland-based not-for-profit that delivers road safety education to schools across the state. Supported through the Queensland Government's Community Road Safety Grants Scheme, BRAKE has delivered evidence-based education to over 80,000 students in a range of school settings, including regional and remote areas.

In Term 1, 2025, BRAKE launched an introductory Personal Mobility Device (PMD) and E-bike safety module, developed in response to growing concerns from schools and communities regarding the safe use of e-mobility devices.

This module extends the BRAKE core program and supports students and families in building early understanding of the laws, responsibilities and risks associated with PMD use. Initial rollout has been well-received but represents only a first step toward a more comprehensive, age-targeted strategy.

This submission addresses the following aspects of the Committee's terms of reference:

- Term 1: Benefits of e-mobility for Queensland
- Term 2: Safety issues associated with e-mobility use
- Term 5: Effectiveness of enforcement approaches
- Term 7: Communication and education about device requirements, rules and consequences
- Term 8: Broader stakeholder perspectives, including education and public health

Problem overview

E-mobility devices are becoming increasingly common in Queensland, particularly among young people. While PMDs and E-bikes offer convenience and accessibility, their use has outpaced public awareness, regulatory understanding and behaviour change.

Schools report students riding to school on illegal or unsafe devices, often unaware of the law. Parents are frequently unfamiliar with the risks or regulatory requirements.

Young users are overrepresented in crash data.

Common behavioural issues include:

- Riding without helmets or protective equipment
- Modifying devices for speed or power
- Ignorance of traffic flow and shared path etiquette
- Viewing PMDs as toys rather than regulated transport

In many cases, BRAKE is contacted after a student has been injured or involved in an incident. This reactive pattern highlights a broader system gap: the absence of a proactive, scaled education framework that prepares young people and their families for safe PMD use before risks materialise.

Role of infrastructure, enforcement and education

BRAKE acknowledges that infrastructure investment is essential for long-term e-mobility safety. Designated riding paths and separated transport spaces are critical to reducing conflict between PMDs, pedestrians and vehicles.

Regulatory enforcement also plays an important role in ensuring safety and legal compliance. However, infrastructure and regulation are not sufficient on their own. Laws and facilities will only be effective if users understand and respect them.

Education is the key to supporting compliance, shaping rider behaviour and promoting safe decision-making. A coordinated education strategy is necessary to complement infrastructure and enforcement and to ensure Queensland communities benefit from the opportunities of e-mobility without compromising public safety.

BRAKE's role in behavioural education

BRAKE's PMD module provides a foundation for safe riding education. It currently introduces young people and their families to key concepts, including:

- Legal requirements and penalties
- Riding safely in shared environments
- Helmet use and visibility
- The risks of device modification
- Respect for other road users

Parent engagement is supported through take-home resources and a digital education hub, ensuring consistent messaging across home and school settings.

While promising, this model has thus far been delivered as a limited trial module within the senior high school context. Demand from schools suggests a need for further investment to broaden its scope and accessibility.

Recommendations

To improve e-mobility safety outcomes among young Queenslanders, BRAKE recommends the Committee consider:

1. Supporting the development and staged rollout of school-based e-mobility education targeting three key age groups:
 - a. Upper primary (Years 5 - 6)
 - b. Middle high school (Years 7 - 9)
 - c. Senior high school (Years 10 - 12)
2. Encouraging the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Education to collaborate with specialist organisations to scale and adapt behavioural education to meet growing demand.
3. Recognising that early education shapes long-term riding habits and plays a critical role in reducing incidents, improving compliance and supporting safer communities.

BRAKE offers an established, scalable delivery model that can be rapidly adapted to support Queensland's e-mobility safety goals. With a growing network of schools and proven systems already approved by TMR and EQ, BRAKE is well placed to support the government in responding to this emerging challenge.

We invite the Committee to consider the role of targeted behavioural education in its final recommendations and to acknowledge that preparing the next generation of e-mobility users requires both strategic foresight and the ability to act quickly.

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This submission is authorised by the executive leadership of BRAKE Driver Awareness.