

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

**Submission No:** 979  
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### Submitter Comments:

I am a community member in a popular beach town. I walk daily on local paths, which include shared footpaths and a popular boardwalk. My submission is based on my own experiences, as a pedestrian and driver, as well as conversations with friends and other community members.

Most of the PMD users in my community are teenagers, of high school age. When I have contacted police with my concerns, I have been asked to take videos of unacceptable behaviour. As you can imagine, that is almost impossible and with the disrespectful behaviour, it could actually be quite risky. It has got to the point that I only feel really safe walking on paths during school hours, as the behaviour of PMD users is so dangerous. CONCERNSSpeedPMD users are often riding well above the legal 12kmh limit on shared paths. Recently, an e-scooter rider was confronted by an elderly pedestrian he had hit on the boardwalk and his response was, "I was only doing 30". On one occasion, I asked a rider who had stopped, did he know the maximum speed on the boardwalk was 12kmh. He just scoffed and sped off. On the roads, they are often seen passing, up the outside and inside of cars, in the 40kmh zone through town. Inappropriate distance from pedestrians

Riders are not giving way and are riding far too close eg centimetres from pedestrians. No warnings from approaching PMDs. I have never heard any warning devices/horns. This is especially dangerous, considering they are silent and travelling at speed. Lack of safety gear. If helmets are worn at all, they are often not fastened. Riders are often riding after dark with dark clothes and no lights. Lack of appropriate clothing eg bikinis/board shorts while riding on the road, at speed.

PassengersRiders are often carrying one, and sometimes two, passengers - often without helmets.

Rider and passenger are sometimes both carrying surfboards. Ignorance of and lack of adherence to road rulesSpeeding, running red lights, failing to give way to pedestrians, riding through pedestrian only areas eg shopping strips, cutting in front of cars, using mobile phones while riding.

CultureIn general, there is a lack of care, courtesy and concern, for pedestrians especially, by PMD users. When I have asked users to slow down or give way, they have told me to shut up, or worse, and take great delight in laughing at people's visible fright, distress and calls to slow down.

Recommendations: consistent and clear national guidelines/laws for PMDsID and licences required, with a compulsory user testsregular compliance checks increased parental responsibility and consequences for unlawful underage behaviourongoing education for PMD users and their parents, with input from council, police, road safety, health professionalsmonitoring cameras and/or road/path counters that provide data for police and local authorities, especially in high risk areassocial media posts and TV ads that highlight safe PMD use, risks and consequences collaboration with groups and communities that have implemented successful strategiesincreased, targeted police action with device confiscations and fines for parents reduce speed on shared paths to 6kmh. I would like to stress that I am not against PMDs but the technology has outstripped the infrastructure and regulations and it will take decisive, clear and firm action to regulations and compliance, to curb escalation in injuries and fatalities.