



Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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16/06/2025

Committee Secretary
Transport and Resources Committee
Queensland Parliament

RE: Submission to the Inquiry into Personal Mobility Devices in Queensland

To the Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of electric scooters—specifically Lime and other shared mobility services currently available in Queensland.

As someone who rides a Lime scooter to and from work each day, I can confidently say these devices have been nothing short of transformative for my daily routine. I save approximately 40 minutes a day, totalling around 147 hours per year that I would otherwise spend sitting in traffic or waiting for a bus. That's real, tangible time returned to my lifetime I now spend on work, family, and things that matter.

I understand the safety concerns that come with any new mode of transport, and I want to be clear: I welcome this inquiry. Eight deaths involving scooters in the past year is eight too many, and each one is a tragedy that deserves careful attention.

It's also worth noting that in 2023 alone, 782 Queenslanders died by suicide, according to the Queensland Mental Health Commission. That's nearly 100 times the number of deaths linked to scooters. Something to keep in mind.

It's also worth distinguishing between shared scooters, like Lime, and high-powered personal devices. Some of the most dangerous e-mobility vehicles on the road are not the rentable scooters but privately owned, thousand-dollar-plus machines that far exceed safe speeds. A Lime scooter is capped at 25 km/h. A \$5,000 electric dirt bike (often ridden by teenagers) is an entirely different beast—and treating both as equivalent is unhelpful and inaccurate. Blanket bans will punish the safe majority because of a reckless minority.

The solution is not to force every scooter onto the footpath either. The size and flow of most footpaths make this unrealistic. In practice, almost every urban road has ample space for a scooter, bike and car to safely share the lane. The goal should be integrated, intelligent infrastructure—not a fallback to outdated systems.

And crucially, if safety and accountability are genuine priorities, then governments should work closely with the e-mobility companies themselves. The moment you ban shared scooters, people will just buy private ones—many of which are faster, harder to regulate, and completely untraceable. If someone damages property or causes an incident using a personal scooter, there's no reliable way to identify or trace them. But when that same person uses a shared scooter with visible identifiers, GPS tracking, and registered details, the Queensland Police Service or council can simply contact the company, reference the vehicle (e.g. "Scooter X4AB at 9:20pm"), and resolve the matter within a single email.

Before Uber, people stood in long, frustrating taxi lines—often in unsafe, chaotic environments. Now, people can get home quickly, independently, and affordably. Scooters offer that same autonomy,

especially for short, local trips. For me, a journey that would take 10+ minutes in a car or bus takes two minutes on a scooter. Often the scooter is right outside my door.

Let's also be honest, scooters are fun. I look forward to my rides every day. I see tourists laughing and enjoying themselves while zipping around Brisbane. These devices are part of a vibrant, forward-looking city. Are they dangerous? Only when misused. We allow 16- and 17-year-olds to drive full-sized vehicles on our roads. Are we really going to act like scooters are the bigger risk?

There will never be a perfect system. But progress requires a willingness to balance innovation with safety, not shut things down because they're new or imperfect. The solution isn't to ban scooters or regulate them out of existence—it's to make them work better. If there are gaps in safety, address them. But don't throw the whole thing out.

And finally, to any politician involved in this decision: download the app and try a scooter yourself. If you haven't, why not? How can you make an informed decision about something you haven't personally experienced?

I urge this Committee to approach the issue not just with caution, but with curiosity and courage. These devices should be here to stay, let's ensure Queensland stays on the front foot.

Kind regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.