

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

**Submission No:** 997  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I think that this inquiry is both very important and very valuable. My son rides an electric bike daily. I have a concern for his safety and the safety of others riding electric bikes, but that is far outweighed by the benefits that I have seen in my son since he got his first electric bike. My son spends significantly more time outside socialising with his friends, exerting his independence, enjoying the beautiful country that we have around us. Since starting to ride his bike, by sons health and fitness have improved significantly, his mental health has improved, his situational awareness and navigation ability are noticeably much better. He has learned a lot about bike maintenance and has shown diligence in caring for and maintaining his bike. Attributes that I had never seen in him before. My son has also educated me of the community distaste towards electric bikes. Members of the public who will intentionally stand in the way of cyclists, cars who swerve towards riders or drive near them to intimidate them. Older members of the community who will verbally abuse and threaten physical abuse towards young teenagers simply for being on an electric mobility device. Truly a horrible insight into the callous and vindictive attitude of some towards a new and misunderstood technology. I am concerned by the general public sentiment against electric mobility devices, where the poor decisions and dangerous actions of the few biases the public opinion against all electric mobility device users unfairly. I am particularly concerned that many younger electric mobility device users will not engage and will not understand the importance of engagement with an inquiry like this one. I sincerely hope that, when considering changes to laws and enforcement strategies, the huge value and benefit gained from the safe use of these mobility devices is considered first and foremost. These devices are a relatively cost-effective method of transportation and commuting that have the benefits of: Improving health and fitness Increasing social engagement Improving mental health Gaining life skills Getting cars off roads Giving independence to those who can't afford or use other modes of transportation. I would implore the committee to consider improving the safety of electric mobility device use first through education, improvement in safe cycling infrastructure and increased public awareness, before diminishing the use of these devices through punitive measures like changes in legislation, increased enforcement, reduction in function of these devices or minimisation of the areas in which they can be used. I hope that the committee is able to consider the bias against these devices that many submissions will contain, noting that the majority of users are young people and will be unaware of this process and unable to provide the positive counterpoints.