

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 1000
Submitted by: Roland Spaarwater
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

To whom it may concern, I'm just someone who loves riding e bikes and e scooters around Brisbane. They're fantastic: cutting down traffic and helping many people get around easily. I'm really worried that putting strict power limits on e bikes could mess up all the great stuff they do. I think we should focus on teaching people to ride safely, building better bike paths, and keeping rules fair for everyone instead. Why E Bikes and E Scooters are great?: E bikes and e scooters are a big win for green transport. They can cut your carbon footprint by up to 500 kg of CO2 a year by replacing car trips (European Cyclists' Federation, 2018, <https://ecf.com>). They clear up busy roads in places like Brisbane and make getting around cheap and easy for students, workers, and older folks. Last year's Queensland rebate scheme was an amazing opportunity for people to save money and get on the road with safe, certified e bikes. More programs like that, like rebates or tax breaks, plus more bike lanes, would get tons of people riding and keep Queensland greener. How to keep things safe without spoiling the fun?: Fair rules for all bikes. Power limits seem to pick on e bikes and e scooters, but road bikes can go faster than 25 km/h and cause crashes too. Cars and motorcycles don't have power caps, and it's all about how people use them. Why treat e bikes differently? We should have the same rules for all bikes, like making helmets and indicators mandatory for e bikes, e scooters, electric skates, unicycles, and road bikes. That keeps everyone safe and fair. Teach folks to ride right. Lots of problems come from people not knowing the rules. A big campaign with schools and councils could teach everyone about helmets, sticking to speed limits like 25 km/h on shared paths, and riding in the right spots. That'd fix more than banning powerful e bikes. Build better paths. More bike paths and clear signs would stop mix ups between cyclists, walkers and cars. Making paths for all kinds of bikes and e scooters would make riding safer and get more folks out there. Let us have fun off road. Plenty of us use e bikes and e scooters for fun on private land or trails, just like dirt bikes. There's no need to limit their power there since they don't hurt anyone. Rules should focus on public roads and leave recreational riding alone. Keep registration simple: I'm fine with a cheap registration and insurance system for powerful micromobility stuff, as long as it's easy and applies to everyone, like e scooters and electric unicycles too. That keeps it fair without stopping folks from riding. Why power limits aren't the way to go?: Limiting e bike and e scooter power could make them less helpful, especially for people who need extra boost on hills or have mobility issues. Cars and motorcycles don't get these limits, and their safety depends on how folks use them. Road bikes can go crazy fast and cause trouble too, but nobody's capping them. Focusing on how people ride, with better education and paths, would fix safety stuff without ruining what makes e bikes so great. My ideas: Boost e bikes and e scooters: Bring back rebates like last year or offer tax breaks to get more folks riding and help the environment. Keep rules fair: Make helmets, (perhaps indicators), and speed limits apply to all bikes and micromobility, not just e bikes and e scooters. Add more bike paths: Build paths and signs to make riding safe for everyone. Don't limit fun: Skip power limits for e bikes used on private land or trails. Spread the word: Team up with schools and councils to teach safe riding. Make registration easy: Set up cheap registration and insurance for powerful devices, but keep it fair for all micromobility. E bikes and e scooters are a huge part of making Queensland's transport greener and less jammed up. Instead of power limits, let's teach folks to ride safely, build better bike paths, and keep rules fair for all bikes. I'd love to see Queensland work with riders to make micromobility safe and fun for everyone. Thanks for reading!