

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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The roads are becoming increasingly congested with traffic. The cost of infrastructure, car parks and maintenance is increasing. Project delivery is not keeping pace with demand. Government funding is finite. E-bikes represent a great opportunity to grow transport capacity, and community mobility funded by the user. E-bike assist in reducing carbon emissions and pressure on household fuel budgets. Encouraging the uptake of E-bikes and better bike path networks will reduce pressure on road infrastructure. It's clear the rapid take up of Ebikes coupled with a lack of skills development and regulation has resulted in community safety concerns. Policing poor rider behavior is almost non-existent. There has been far too little discussion on the benefit of the improved mobility on the community. The rising popularity and rapid uptake is evidence, that E-bikes are solving issues faced by the community. Current Ebike rules are poorly understood, confusing and illogical. To improve the experience and strengthen the contribution Ebikes can make I propose the following:

1. Riders to hold either a Drivers Licence or a permit obtained through an online test (like a learners permit).
2. Minimum age limit of 14yrs
3. Special low cost registration category for Ebike with compulsory CTP component.
4. Align power ratings with other states 750W. 250W is insufficient to navigate hills effectively.
5. Increase speed limit to 35KM for open road and have reduced limits for selected bike paths or shared paths
6. Allow use of throttle. An E-bike is not a motobike and the restriction of the throttle decreases utility, with no safety benefit.