Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I am a regular user of both an e-scooter and an e-bike, which I rely on daily to commute to work, shops, and access to my local pool and the beach. Like many Queenslanders, I do not have ready access to a car. These devices provide a practical, affordable, and environmentally friendly alternative to driving. My concern is that overly restrictive regulations could make e-mobility devices so inconvenient or limited that they become unviable as a transport option. If that happens, people like me would be forced to buy a car and contribute to the already congested road network—completely undermining the broader goals of reducing traffic, emissions, and urban pressure. It's important to recognise that the issue is not the devices themselves, but the behaviour of a minority of users who flout the rules. This is no different from car drivers—many of whom speed, drive recklessly, or endanger pedestrians. But we don't respond by banning cars from the road. Instead, we enforce existing laws, educate the public, and implement licensing systems. The same principle should apply here. I support a minimum age and basic licensing or permit system for e-mobility users. I also strongly urge the government to invest in safe and dedicated infrastructure—particularly outside the CBD—so that e-scooters and bikes have their own space, away from both pedestrians and motor traffic. The Dutch model of clearly marked, protected cycle routes is an excellent example to follow. Rather than taking a punitive approach that penalises those doing the right thing, Queensland should focus on smart regulation, better enforcement, public education, and investment in infrastructure that supports this growing mode of transport.