

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

**Submission No:** 1048

**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]

**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

To the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. I am writing to urge one simple reform: the removal of e-scooters — whether shared or privately owned — from pedestrian footpaths. At a time when safety and public health are rightly prioritised in many areas of policy, it is difficult to reconcile this arrangement with fundamental duty-of-care principles. Footpaths have historically been — and should remain — safe spaces for pedestrians, especially for those most vulnerable: older adults, people with disabilities, children, and others who rely on predictable, low-risk environments for daily movement. That principle should never have been compromised. This is not simply a behavioural issue or a matter of educating e-scooter users. It is a structural problem: when a transport mode like e-scooters is introduced into an environment fundamentally unsuited to it — like pedestrian footpaths — problems become inevitable. That the current rules allow e-scooters to mix with pedestrians on narrow urban footpaths — especially in CBDs — is an obvious policy failure. It is a dangerous, permissive policy — not a progressive act of “seeking a balanced outcome,” as is sometimes said. Globally, most major cities have already moved to eliminate this risk. Queensland is increasingly isolated in this regard. It should not take the death of a pedestrian in Queensland — as tragically occurred in Perth recently — for this to be addressed. The committee would know that with the current permissive approach to e-scooters on footpaths, a pedestrian death — an elderly person, a child? — is only a matter of time. How has this become accepted public policy? I urge the committee to act decisively on this specific issue. E-scooters do not belong on footpaths. Enacting this change would bring Queensland into line with the overwhelming majority of both Australian and global cities — and restore safety and dignity to our pedestrian spaces. A truly inclusive and safe urban transport system does not trade off the mobility of one group at the expense of another.