

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 1059
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Over the last 18 months the use of e-motorbikes on the southern Gold Coast has gotten completely out of hand. These illegal e-bikes are being ridden at high speeds along walkways, through thoroughfares and amongst traffic. These e-motor bikes are often being ridden by children well below the legal age of holding a licence. Doubling, sometimes tripling each other on busy roads. I have a young family and now, like many people with young kids have to treat a walk on the foreshore or along a footpath similarly to crossing a road to ensure my children's safety after countless near misses with speeding illegal ebikes. I have heard submissions from the police that they are educating kids on the risks of riding these illegal ebikes, however it clearly not working and these are becoming a death trap for young kids, directly impacting community access for local communities and creating a massive risk for all uses of walkways in coastal communities. I propose the following: we must treat this use of illegal e-bikes as we would trail bikes being used on footpaths All schools must have a mandate to not store any illegal e-bikes and report their use to authorities All illegal e-bike being used in the community should be confiscated Any rider who hits a pedestrian needs to be criminally liable Council rangers should be given capacity to issue fines and compound illegal ebikes local thoroughfares, cafes near footpaths and children's parks need to be protected, perhaps fences or boulders that deter speeding e-bikes from having near misses with children The enforcement of these e-bikes is clearly not working as their popularity continues to grow, particularly in children too young to hold a car licence. The police and Qld government have a responsibility to uphold safety standards of the community, it is currently failing to do this when it comes to illegal e-bikes.