

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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To: QLD State Government Parliamentary Enquiry:

INQUIRY INTO E-MOBILITY SAFETY AND USE IN QUEENSLAND

Industry representative response to Section 1: *Benefits of e-mobility (including both Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes) for Queensland;*

Dear Committee the use of ebikes in Queensland has grown significantly in popularity over recent years for very good reasons. Our hot climate, predominately good weather, often hilly urban communities, and long distances make electric mobility devices a better way to commute compared to traditional non assisted devices. They are easy to maintain, low cost to run, emit lower emissions especially if used instead of a traditional motor vehicle. Ebikes provide the user physical benefits, reduce traffic congestions, are convenient for commutes to school, work, deliveries, shops and local places of interest.

Over the past decade the design of the most popular ebikes has evolved to meet the demands of users resulting in more robust, ergonomic and technologically advanced designs, regulation has not kept up with the advancements and user demands. The users demographic has expanded to include persons that would not normally ride a bike due to their size, ability, fitness level or required distance of travel all of which require designs that require a rethink of the current regulations **especially the aspect of maximum continuous power as defined by legislation.**

Key benefits include:

A/ Health benefits

- Low-impact exercise: Encourages daily physical activity without overexertion.
- Improves cardiovascular health and supports weight management.
- Assists older riders, people with injuries, or lower fitness levels to stay active.

Compared to:

- *Cars*: Provide no physical benefit.,
- *Push bikes*: Can be too strenuous for some, especially on hills or in heat.

B/ Cost Savings

- Very low running costs: Only a few cents per charge.
- No fuel, rego, insurance, or parking fees (if under 250W legal limit).
- Less maintenance than cars or motorcycles.

Compared to:

- *Cars*: High fuel, maintenance, rego, and insurance costs.
- *Push bikes*: Lower cost too, but may lack utility or range.

C/ Environmental Benefits

- Zero emissions at point of use.

- Reduces greenhouse gases, noise pollution, and urban smog.
- Helps Queensland meet sustainability goals and climate targets.

Compared to:

- *Cars*: Major source of CO₂ and air pollution.
- *Push bikes*: Also eco-friendly but less versatile for all users.

D/ Faster Commutes in Cities

- Bypass traffic jams, especially during peak hour on the Gold Coast or Brisbane.
- Use bike lanes, shared paths, and cut-throughs inaccessible to cars.
- Avoid time spent finding parking.

Compared to:

- *Cars*: Often stuck in traffic; long parking times.
- *Push bikes*: Similar, but e-bikes enable faster travel with less fatigue.

E/ Ideal for Queensland's Climate & Terrain

- E-assist helps riders manage heat, humidity, and steep hills.
- More enjoyable in warm weather—arrive sweat-free to work or events.
- Makes commuting feasible year-round, unlike traditional bikes.

F/ Extended Range and Flexibility

- Travel longer distances with minimal fatigue.
- Easily cover 10–30 km commutes or weekend rides.
- E-bikes support cargo carrying and child seats/trailers.

Compared to:

- *Push bikes*: Longer distances can be exhausting.
- *Cars*: Overkill for short trips; more congestion and emissions.

G/ Easy Parking

- Park almost anywhere—bike racks, sidewalks, or indoors.
- No need for garages or large parking bays.
- Ideal for city centres and crowded school zones.

H/ Accessible to More People

- Suitable for older adults, people with limited mobility, or beginner riders.
- More inclusive than regular bikes, promoting wider adoption.
- Encourages families to ride together with cargo e-bikes or e-trikes.

I/ Low Maintenance

- Modern e-bikes are durable and easy to maintain.
- Less wear-and-tear on drivetrain due to motor assist.
- Far fewer moving parts than cars or motorcycles.

J/ Fun and Engaging

- Keeps people more connected with their surroundings than driving.

- Perfect for weekend recreation, local trails, or fitness challenges.

K/ Supports Urban Planning Goals

- Reduces need for parking infrastructure and road expansion.
- Eases pressure on public transport systems.
- Encourages vibrant, people-focused communities.

Summary of Benefits

Benefit	Impact
Improved accessibility	Helps elderly, disabled, and heavier riders
Safety in traffic	Better acceleration = safer flow
Urban transport replacement	Reduces car use and congestion
Health & fitness	Encourages daily active transport
Cargo capability	Practical for families and businesses
Lower emissions	Less reliance on fossil fuels

In summary the use of modern ebikes affords significant benefits to the users and the greater community. These benefits should be considered carefully as the majority of concerns raised about the use of ebikes relates to complaints caused by a small minority of users which is through misuse.

Yours truly,

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