Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitted by: Charles Rottier

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Submission on e-bikes

Living in Coolangatta I have observed a significant increase in e-bike usage over the past 18 months, with many riders travelling at excessive speed on the roads and in the parklands along Marine Parade. Some wear helmets, some do not. I have witnessed as many as 3 teenagers on a single bike travelling at speed along Griffiths Street. I have witnessed a young male rider with a helmet riding on the road with front wheel off the ground keeping up with me while I was travelling at 50km/hr on the street. I have witnessed young riders with no helmets travelling at speed weaving in and out of traffic in Broadbeach. Fat tyres e-bikes are driven on the beach.

While the laws are quite clear on the power and limiting speed of e-bikes, shops in Coolangatta are advertising e-bikes as "able to be unlocked to 50km/hr for rural use" and it is clear that many of these bikes have been unlocked.

They are uninsured and most of the riders would not have a licence nor had any driver training. The bikes are not cheap so presumably parents are helping to buy them. They travel fast with inexperienced riders clearly contravening the law and presenting significant opportunities to cause injury. Unlike pedal powered bikes most of these 'fatboy' bikes are heavy, slower to stop and would cause considerable injury if they hit a pedestrian.

The laws seem appropriate but the sale and use of these bikes has not been controlled.

