

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 1124
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Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

1. I support the safe, managed use of e-bikes and e-scooters for their potential to reduce traffic and parking, transport people quickly, have physical benefits for riders and teach risk management and mutual respect on the road. I do not support a ban. 2. Existing rules and regulations [clearly explained in RACQ publications] are appropriate, but are currently not widely known, supported by public education or enforced on the roads and footpaths. Like many technological advances, practice has outpaced education, training, clear definition of responsibilities, enforcement and penalties for misuse. 3. Key regulations need a well-funded, imaginative public information campaign across a variety of media, including TV and social media. Info must be accessible, meaningful and targeted to particular age groups and to road/footpath/bike-path users, eg school-age children and adolescents, parents, pedestrians, cyclists, motor-cyclists, car drivers. The campaign should be supported by clear, persuasive signage on roadsides, along bike paths and footpaths. Focus should be on a]safety and respect, b]the rights of all road users and pedestrians and c] warning of risks, dangers and penalties for breaches and dangerous use of e-scooters and e-bikes. 4. Best practice in other countries and regions should be researched and incorporated into Qld's approach, ie what regulations and penalties are in place, where there is a lower injury and accident rate, effective information and education campaign, cost-effective monitoring and application of the law, and use of penalties. 5. In particular, age limits, licensing requirements, training and testing strategies should be based on research-based evidence. There is no point in introducing severe penalties unless practices are monitored and laws enforced. AI may be incorporated into surveillance, rather than adding to or diverting police workload. 6. Our road and transport infrastructure is inadequate to deal with new modes of transport such as e-bikes and e-scooters. Rather than spending money on extending light rail on the Gold Coast highway, better bike-paths and dedicated lanes for e-mobility should be developed as a priority. 7. Please do not make this a heavy-handed law and order issue or an excuse to criticise previous government handling of rapidly emerging changes that are challenging communities, lawmakers and governments in all developed countries. Instead, be sure to take a proactive approach to using new and emerging technologies such as AI and try to stay ahead of future innovations. Perhaps drones? Thank you for the opportunity to submit my views.