


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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SUBMISSION TO E-bike, E-scooter Enquiry

The riding of unregistered, unlicensed, and almost unregulated e-bikes, e-scooters and e-skateboards has led to a significant and increasing number of injuries among pedestrians on the Gold Coast.

It is also changing the way people go about their days. Mothers and fathers walking their children, people walking their dogs, and the elderly trying to keep active, are all feeling anxious as they use the footpaths or pedestrian crossings in our suburbs.

These particular e-mobility devices are almost silent in operation and often do not have a bell or horn to sound when they are approaching quickly. Often all you hear as you walk along the footpath is “Get out of my way!” or “Watch out!”

A member of my own family has almost been knocked down three times by an e-scooter. On two occasions, one just yesterday, I observed young people riding their e-scooters inside shopping centres in Robina and Varsity Lakes. During a visit to Brisbane, we very often felt vulnerable as people on e-scooters swooped around us as we walked in George and Queen Streets. It was a most uncomfortable feeling that will discourage us from visiting the city again.

What is needed.

- Ban all e-scooters, e-skateboards and e-bikes from all footpaths and pedestrian crossings. If they must be used, they must be in the bike lanes on the road.
- Consider the development and construction of specific lanes on the road for them.
- Introduce legislation to restrict purchase of e-scooters, e-skateboards and e-bikes.
- Find a way of preventing the ability to defeat speed governing on the motor. I understand one can easily find out how to avoid speed governing mechanisms by searching the internet.
- Introduce legislation for licensing and registration of people and devices.
- Increase the minimum age that riders can obtain a licence.
- Make the wearing of helmets compulsory with significant fines for not wearing one.
- No doubling. It is very common to see young school children and parents riding double.
- No “showing off”. Again we see many school children, sometimes in groups of five or six, riding along the road, doing “wheelies”.
- Introduce consequences for breaking e scooter, e-skateboard and e-bike laws. For example, loss of licence, monetary fine, removal and destruction of device (even if it is registered in a parent’s name).