

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	1147
Submitted by:	Nicole Powrie
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

I am writing as someone who drives a car, rides an e-bike, and walks on footpaths with my two-year-old daughter. As a result I can see this issue from multiple sides.

E-Bikes on the road: When I'm on my e-bike, I often feel unsafe. Cars pass too quickly and too closely, and I've even been verbally abused (even called an incompetent mother for riding with my daughter on the back) just for being on the road. Bike lanes don't always offer much protection, they often just vanish mid-route and are often blocked by parked cars which forces me and my daughter into traffic creating stressful and dangerous situations.

E-bikes on footpaths: When riding my e-bike on the footpath, I ride much slower to keep pedestrians safe and stay out of their way. Thus taking much longer to get anywhere and not being a viable mode of transport. I often have pedestrians not hear my bell (either elderly walkers with poor hearing or others wearing headphones/earbuds) and not allowing enough room for me to pass. This has resulted in me coming off the bike a number of times due to my wheel slipping off the pavement so as not to hit the pedestrians. I also understand what it's like from a pedestrian's point of view. Walking with my daughter around Lake Orr, bikes and scooters rush past us dangerously fast and close on narrow footpaths, it can be difficult keeping her out of their way.

Road design: The roads are designed with car speed as a priority, making it dangerous for any other users, including e-bikes, scooters and pedestrians. This is especially evident at roundabouts, where the bike lanes finish prior to the roundabouts, forcing me into the path of cars. As a pedestrian, I often have to run as fast as I can with a pram just to keep out of the way of cars going quickly through the intersection.

E-bikes moving forward: E-bikes are a great option for getting around. They're efficient, affordable, and more environmentally friendly. I'd love to use mine more, and I know many others feel the same, but the current infrastructure just doesn't make it easy or safe.

Including e-bikes and PMD's in our infrastructure: If we want to see fewer cars on the road and fewer conflicts with pedestrians, we need to make it safer and more appealing for people to ride:

- Safer, clearly separated and protected spaces for bikes on the road, including through intersections.
- Lower speed limits for roads with bike lanes
- Making footpaths more pedestrian-friendly with designated/separated lanes for pedestrians and bikes.
- Increasing ease of getting on and off footpaths and on-road bike paths. Once I'm on an On-road bike lane it can be very difficult to get back on the foot path to avoid dangerous intersections.
- Connections between on-road and shared paths need to be more direct rather than going on a big detour through underpasses just to continue along the road.
- Connections with public transport, including being able to easily take bikes and PMD's on public transport (G:link Tram and busses are a prime example).

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I would love for e-bikes and e-scooters to be included in our infrastructure moving forward to decrease the stress and strain on our roads. I am looking forward to hearing what conclusions are raised from this and excited this is a topic which is being looked at.