

## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

<b>Submission No:</b>	1150
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Outdoors Queensland
<b>Publication:</b>	Making the submission and your name public
<b>Attachments:</b>	See attachment
<b>Submitter Comments:</b>	



19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members,

Parliamentary Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use in Queensland

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into E-Mobility Safety and Use in Queensland.

Outdoors Queensland is the peak body for the outdoor sector in Queensland. We represent outdoor organisations and individuals in Queensland, consisting of a range of outdoor industry stakeholders, covering the five broad pillars of outdoor activities:

- outdoor recreation,
- outdoor education,
- outdoor health,
- nature-based tourism, and
- associated support services.

The mission of Outdoors Queensland is to ensure that all people have opportunities to create connections with Queensland's outdoors. Our vision is to create a world where the outdoors is a vital part of every healthy life - a healthy world comes from a balanced life, incorporating outdoor activities for all people.

Outdoors Queensland serves as the industry peak body for the outdoor sector, with a focus on building capacity and capability of outdoor people and outdoor organisations to help all people make connections with Queensland's outdoors.

This submission relates to the following aspects of the inquiry's terms of reference:

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;
2. Safety issues associated with e-mobility use, including increasing crashes, injuries, fatalities, and community concerns;
5. Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches and powers to address dangerous riding behaviours and the use of illegal devices;
7. Communication and education about device requirements, rules, and consequences for unsafe use; and



8. Broad stakeholder perspectives, including from community members, road user groups, disability advocates, health and trauma experts, academia, the e-mobility industry, and all levels of government.

#### Benefits of e-mobility

Outdoors Queensland affirms the value of all outdoor activities and the right of all individuals to participate in outdoor activities in culturally responsible and environmentally sustainable ways.

All types of outdoor activity are valid pursuits, whether human powered (e.g. bushwalking and paddling), animal powered (e.g. horse-riding), wind powered (e.g. sailing and hang-gliding), fossil-fuel powered (e.g. four-wheel driving, motorcycling and boating), or powered by electricity.

Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, and e-bikes provide significant benefits to our communities.

Personal mobility devices are not only the purview of people who hire a scooter in the central business districts of towns and cities. More and more people own e-mobility devices, and those devices are central to everyday journeys as well as leisure and tourism experiences.

Personal mobility devices and e-bikes encourage people to better utilise bike paths and use active transport. E-mobility reduces emissions and congestion on roads, provides connectivity for under-served communities and increases physical activity and connection to the outdoors.

E-bikes have revolutionised cycling, allowing people to participate who might otherwise avoid the activity or engage only in limited amounts. Thanks to e-bikes, Queenslanders are participating alongside others who may be more experienced or have higher fitness levels. E-bikes allow people to continue participating while ageing and allow people to participate for longer each time they go for a ride.

E-mountain biking is a significant global market estimated at USD 6.49 billion in 2025 and expected to reach USD 11.73 billion by 2030<sup>i</sup>.

*Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland's Tourism Future*<sup>ii</sup> states that:

“Queensland aspires to be the world’s leading ecotourism destinations, leveraging its incredible biodiversity and natural environments that already attract visitors from across the globe. Ecotourism is a key competitive advantage for the state, offering significant potential to create future jobs, support local communities, and unlock new opportunities for operators.”

It is important that any decisions that might affect e-mountain biking should be consider the benefits that e-bikes offer to tourism operators and the broader Queensland economy.





### Safety issues associated with e-mobility use

We acknowledge that personal mobility devices and e-bikes have been involved in incidents that have led to property damage, personal injuries and fatalities. By recognising the inherent risks, we can take steps to identify hazards, eliminate the risks that are able to be eliminated and minimise as much as practical.

It must be recognised that there are risks for riders of e-bikes and Personal Mobility Devices and risks to other people who might interact with e-mobility, including pedestrians.

We submit that Queensland needs safer, better-connected infrastructure that caters for e-mobility, in addition to other users. Consistent line-marking and signage should be standard inclusions on paths and bikeways. Design standards should cater for e-mobility, rather than having these modes of transport “shoe-horned” into spaces designed for other methods of transport.

Outdoors Queensland has regularly called for better connected paths and trails for outdoor activities, whether those paths/trails are focussed on active transport, outdoor recreation or tourism. To improve safety now and in the future, we suggest that all Queensland paths and trails should consider e-mobility devices.

Significant funding is required to bring existing trails up to the necessary safety standard, funding is required for ongoing maintenance of paths/trails, and investment is required for the construction of new paths and trails as well as the missing links required to create world-class path/trail networks.

An example of the necessary planning considerations is in designing mountain-bike trails that work for e-mountain bikes. Climbing trails that work for “human-powered” mountain bikes may be too easy for e-mountain bike riders, which can lead to shortcuts or other inappropriate actions, while steeper climbing trails (which may be very difficult or virtually impossible for someone with lower levels of skill or fitness) might be well-within the capability of riders with the benefit of pedal-assist. Specific climbing trails could be designated as being for e-mountain bikes, which separates human-powered bikes and e-bikes and reduces potential conflict.

### Effectiveness of current enforcement approaches

We note that the age limits and speed limits are already in place for Personal Mobility Devices when used on roads and footpaths in Queensland. It is important to consider that Personal Mobility Devices and e-bikes are used on private land and other tenures across Queensland, leading to confusion around applicable rules/regulations and enforcement.

It appears that current enforcement is more focussed on occasional blitzes that take riders of e-mobility devices by surprise, rather than communicating the existing rules.





Outdoors Queensland broadly supports these suggestions that officers from Queensland Police Service and local government authorities could be better trained and resourced to deal with the enforcement of e-mobility regulations.

We also support calls from organisations such as Bicycle Queensland (a member of Outdoors Queensland) for the Queensland Government to fund practical training programs for purchasers of e-mobility devices and school students.

#### Communication and education

We believe that there is still work to be done to communicate the changes introduced in November 2022 for personal mobility devices in Queensland, including the 12 km/hour rule for footpaths, requirements around bicycle/motorcycle helmets, passing distances for cars and other road users, and inclusion in give way rules for other vehicles.

Communication methods need to be tailored to end-users and delivered in ways that appeal to various demographics and audiences that make up those end-users. For example, specific messaging for younger users, international visitors, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

There appears to be a perception across the community that e-bikes and Personal Mobility Devices are simply bikes and scooters with “bolted-on” motors, with powered-devices expected to operate in the same places as their non-powered cousins, which can lead to conflict. This is like including players of electric guitars and acoustic guitars on one stage with no clear guidance on how to interact, and being surprised when the experience is diminished for players and audience.

We suggest that there needs to be better communication and community education regarding e-mobility as a separate class of device, rather than being routinely considered alongside non-powered bikes and scooters.

#### Broad stakeholder perspectives

As the peak industry body for outdoor activities across Queensland, Outdoors Queensland represents a wide range of outdoor industry stakeholders. Outdoors Queensland would be pleased to share information with our networks regarding outcomes of this inquiry, especially regarding rules and laws that are in place and opportunities for people to become better informed about safe practices and the rules/regulations.

We submit that major infrastructure must be designed and built to accommodate e-bikes and PMDs. For example, Paralympic/Olympic venues for the 2032 Games should be designed with e-Mobility in mind, rather than as an afterthought. This will ensure that when Queenslanders and visitors from around the world visit these venues via e-mobility devices, their travel will be one part of what we hope will be very positive experiences.

We submit that rules and regulations regarding e-mobility should be simplified and harmonised across Australia to reduce confusion and improve compliance.



We consent to the publication of this submission on the committee's inquiry webpage, and accept that it may be viewed on the internet. If you have any queries, please contact Executive Officer, Dom Courtney, on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dom Courtney  
Executive Officer / Company Secretary

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<sup>i</sup> Source: Mordor Intelligence, ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKE MARKET SIZE AND SHARE ANALYSIS – GROWTH TRENDS & FORECASTS (2025 – 2030) - <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/e-mountain-bike-market>, accessed 20 June 2025

<sup>ii</sup> <https://destination2045.detsi.qld.gov.au/20-year-tourism-plan>

