

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I firmly believe that hired e-mobility devices are inappropriate for use in Queensland, particularly in a residential urban environment. My objections relate to a number of issues. 1. Community access for persons with disability (PWDs) is hindered by the use of e-mobility devices. When e-mobility devices are used on footpaths, they are a hazard to wheelchair users as well as pedestrians. It feels really unsafe when scooters weave through pedestrians at speed and pass me (in a wheelchair), making it harder than it already is to feel comfortable and safe accessing and enjoying being out in the community. e-scooters and e-bikes are often left by users in random locations and parked inconsiderately (and illegally). They often block footpaths and other access pathways, including designated pathways around carparks. As a wheelchair user, I need to have a clear paved pathway to be able to move along the footpath. The residential urban environment may have bumpy footpaths, rough crossovers, steep crossfalls that already make it challenging for me to navigate in a wheelchair. When hired scooters & bikes now block those pathways this creates more barriers. I do not have the strength or ability to move these devices out of the way if confronted by one, and pathways may be too narrow or unsafe for me to move around them. This goes against the concepts of access and inclusion for all in these shared spaces. 2. Hired vs Owned equipment. It is usually only hired equipment that you see parked inappropriately. Any users who actually own their e-scooters will take enough care to ensure their scooter is secured somewhere safe (and thereby not randomly left on the footpath). If used and parked appropriately, I don't mind the concept of e-mobility. Greater regulation, limitation and enforcement around parking these devices would be beneficial if they continue to be allowed at all.