

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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To the Parliamentary Committee

20/06/2025

INQUIRY INTO E-MOBILITY SAFETY AND USE IN QUEENSLAND

Submission

We wish to express our strong views regarding the safety, use, and regulation of e-mobility devices in Queensland, for the following reasons:

1 Sale and Use of Illegal E-Mobility Devices

- Many e-bikes and e-scooters are being sold as high-speed, derestricted "off-road" vehicles, yet they are regularly used on public roads.
- These vehicles effectively operate as illegal motorbikes on Queensland roads.
- Retailers, Individuals and parents are not taking responsibility for selling and purchasing the use of these illegal vehicles.

2 Safety Risks

- Riders—often children—are operating these vehicles at dangerously high speeds while wearing only bicycle helmets.
- The brakes and frames of these bikes are not designed to handle such speeds, significantly increasing risk.



- It is alarmingly easy to find instructions online (e.g., YouTube) that show how to derestrict these devices.

3 Proposed Solutions

- Tighten laws to allow only the sale of pedal-assist e-bikes – no derestricted throttle only options
- Ensure all e-bikes and e-scooters are sold in a speed-restricted form. Required to have a licence if purchasing for off road usage.
- Introduce stronger design standards that make it far more difficult for devices to be derestricted.
- Strengthen enforcement around the sale and use of these vehicles, make the fines more substantial.

4 Impact on Small, Law-Abiding Businesses

- As a small local business, we are disadvantaged by this situation:
 - We sell legal, registered motorbikes (e.g., mopeds limited to 50 km/h) that require registration fees of up to \$600 per year in Qld. Unlike other States like NSW who heavily subsidises this registration fee to encourage less cars on the roads.
 - Meanwhile, illegal e-bikes capable of speeds of up to 90 km/h are being ridden on the road without registration or CTP insurance and compliance costs.
- We believe lowering moped and scooter registration fees would encourage more people to choose legal, safer alternatives over illegal e-bikes.
- The issue with mostly children riding them is the bigger issue here and safety for all is the most important point to make.

Thank you for allowing us to make this submission, please dont hesitate to contact us if required