

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	1177
Submitted by:	Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group
Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Submission to the Queensland Parliament Inquiry into E-scooter and E-bike Safety

From: Sunshine Coast Bicycle User Group (SCBUG)

Introduction

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Group welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland.

As advocates for safe and sustainable active transport on the Sunshine Coast, we are deeply concerned by the escalating safety risks associated with e-scooters and e-bikes, particularly among young people and vulnerable road users.

This submission highlights urgent safety issues, the critical need for national uniform standards, and the inadequacy of current enforcement practices.

Rising Injury Rates and Safety Concerns

Recent data from the Jamieson Trauma Institute indicates that presentations for e-scooter-related injuries to 30 Queensland emergency departments have increased to about 150 per month—up from 100 per month just two years ago. This sharp rise underscores the growing public health impact of e-mobility devices²³⁵.

On the Sunshine Coast, local health authorities have reported 118 e-scooter-related emergency presentations at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Emergency Department between January 2023 and January 2024—equating to one presentation every three days. Notably, 56.8% of these patients were under the age of 18, and 72.9% were male. According to Dr. Andrew Hobbins-King, Medical Director of Trauma Service at Sunshine Coast Health, adolescent injuries are often significant, reflecting the vulnerability of this cohort to serious harm⁵.

Similar trends are observed in other regions. Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service data show that boys and men aged 10–20 are the most frequent e-scooter injury patients. In response, hospitals are now triaging e-scooter-related injuries more urgently if sustained at higher speeds, a measure already implemented in southern Queensland⁵.

Lack of National Uniform Standards

The current regulatory landscape for e-mobility devices is fragmented and inconsistent across Australian states and territories. As noted by industry experts, “We have different regulations between different states, and between the federal government and the states... the individual approaches are not going to create the optimum outcome for the country”[5](#). This lack of harmonisation leads to confusion, enforcement difficulties, and increased risk for users and the public.

For example, some devices legal to sell in Queensland are illegal to use, while in New South Wales, the reverse is true. This regulatory “dog’s breakfast” undermines safety and complicates enforcement, importation, and public education efforts[5](#).

Inadequate Enforcement and Policing

Despite existing laws, enforcement remains inconsistent and under-resourced. The Queensland Police Service (QPS) can issue fines exceeding \$1,580 and three demerit points for illegal device use, with additional penalties for parents who permit ongoing use by minors. Police also have powers to impound and confiscate non-compliant devices[4](#). However, local police and community groups report ongoing challenges, including insufficient resources and the difficulty of targeting underage users, particularly on public paths and in national parks[4](#).

The SCBUG strongly supports recommendations for increased police presence, better resourcing, and clearer authority for rangers and local governments to enforce e-mobility regulations. We also advocate for enhanced community education and awareness campaigns, especially targeting young riders and their families[45](#).

Community and Infrastructure Impacts

The rise in e-mobility device use has led to increased conflicts and poor behaviour on shared paths, particularly in high-traffic areas such as the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, and national parks. Vulnerable path users—including children, the elderly, and people with disabilities—are at heightened risk of injury due to reckless riding and the use of illegal, high-powered devices[46](#).

The SCBUG urges the Queensland Government to invest in dedicated e-mobility infrastructure, such as separated bike lanes and improved signage, to reduce conflicts and enhance safety for all users[5](#).

We also recommend stricter import controls and point-of-sale compliance checks to prevent the sale of non-compliant devices[4](#).

Recommendations

1. **Establish National Uniform Standards:**

Advocate for harmonised regulations across all Australian jurisdictions to ensure clarity and consistency in the sale, import, and use of e-mobility devices⁵.

2. **Enhance Enforcement and Resources:**

Provide additional resources to police and local authorities to improve enforcement of existing laws, particularly targeting underage and reckless riders⁴.

3. **Strengthen Education and Awareness:**

Launch targeted education campaigns for schools, families, and the broader community, focusing on safe riding practices and legal requirements such as the ScootScool - E - scooter education and Road safety program currently funded by the Australian Government. This was developed on the Sunshine Coast and currently delivered locally - www.scootscool.com.au ⁵.

4. **Improve Infrastructure:**

Invest in dedicated e-mobility infrastructure to reduce conflicts between riders, pedestrians, and other vulnerable users

5. **Tighten Import and Sale Controls:**

Implement stricter importation laws and point-of-sale compliance checks to prevent the sale of illegal, non-compliant devices⁴.

6. **Support Local Government Initiatives:**

Empower local councils to introduce and enforce local regulations on where and how e-mobility devices can be used⁴.

Conclusion

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Group strongly supports the Parliamentary Inquiry's focus on improving safety for all road and path users.

The alarming rise in e-scooter and e-bike injuries, particularly among young people, demands urgent action.

SCBUG strongly recommends the Queensland Government to lead the way in establishing national uniform standards, enhancing enforcement, and investing in safer infrastructure.

Only by addressing these issues comprehensively can we ensure a safe and sustainable future for e-mobility in Queensland²⁴⁵.

References

1. <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/travel-and-transport/parliamentary-inquiry-into-e-scooter-and-e-bike-safety>
2. <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/102485>
3. <https://bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2025/05/12/queensland-launches-inquiry-into-e-scooter-and-e-bike-safety/>
4. <https://www.sandybolton.com/electric-bikes-and-scooters-update-april-2025/>
5. <https://www.governmentnews.com.au/qld-addresses-e-scooter-safety/>
6. <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/THLGC-9EC2/RN39ICI-8F91/submissions/00000077.pdf>
7. <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/au/news/breaking-news/queensland-opens-inquiry-into-escooter-ebike-safety-534525.aspx>
8. <https://redlandbaysidenews.com.au/queensland-scooter-inquiry/>
9. <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?id=4522>

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle User Group (SCBUG) represents cycling groups and community representatives from the Sunshine Coast region which spans the Local Government Areas of Sunshine Coast and Noosa to advocate and promote cycling as a viable and safe mode of transportation.