

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Current Issues with E-Bikes and E-Scooters:1.They travel too fast to be safely used on footpaths shared with pedestrians.2.Very few are equipped with bells or sound devices to alert pedestrians as they approach.3.Some e-bikes and e-scooters have been illegally modified and now exceed the power of petrol-powered motorcycles. Riders aren't required to hold a licence, and people are purchasing them freely as alternatives to motorcycles. In that context, is it appropriate for them to be ridden on footpaths? I've seen e-bikes reach speeds over 70km/h on the ICB.4.Young children are using shared e-scooters to cause disruption in crowded areas like South Bank and the Howard Smith Wharves precinct. There is no enforcement of the rules.5.Parking of hired e-scooters and e-bikes is chaotic. There is zero enforcement regarding how they are parked. I've contacted BCC in the past about e-scooters blocking the footpath, and was told it wasn't a council issue. There's also no straightforward way to report problems to the responsible companies.6.One of my family members was hit by a shared e-scooter. The rider apologised and then fled the scene. There was no way to identify either the rider or the scooter involved. When we contacted the company, they showed no interest in assisting.7.In my view, local councils support e-bike/e-scooter hire schemes because they generate additional revenue, but there seems to be little interest in monitoring their use or ensuring public safety.Suggestions:1.Impose mandatory third-party insurance and increase liability for e-bike/e-scooter hire companies.2.Currently, riders face no consequences for leaving hired e-bikes and e-scooters parked carelessly on footpaths. There should be penalties for companies, prompting them to better educate riders.3.Illegally modified e-bikes and e-scooters should be confiscated, just like any other unregistered or unsafe vehicles.4.Set a minimum age for all riders.