

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 1185
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Submitter Comments:

Submission to e-bike and e-scooter inquiry from Peter Hale ([REDACTED]).2. SAFETY Proper e-bicycles are designed and regulated so the electric motor works when the bicycle is being pedalled. The motor doesn't engage if there is no pedalling. However, many of the e-bikes on the road, bikeway or footpath are set up differently. The motor propels the bike whether or not it is being pedalled. Both types can reach high speeds, especially if fitted with a powerful motor. Unlike hire e-scooters (as compared to privately owned e-scooters), e-bikes or e-bicycles are not speed limited. They can reach speeds of more than 60 km/hr! They present a big hazard on footpaths and bikeways, in my extensive experience. It's very concerning.4. CURRENT REGULATION Se-bicycles that are not speed limited are in fact electric motor bikes. As with other motorbikes, the riders need to be licensed and the bikes need to be registered. Further, they should be barred from riding on footpaths and bikeways. There are currently no regulations in place for use of these electric motor bikes. All e-bikes and e-scooters must be speed limited. If not they should be licensed and regulated as for motor vehicles.5. ENFORCEMENT EFFECTIVENESS Enforcement is the responsibility of the police, not local councils. Police do the occasional surveillance but it's pretty much ineffective. What would help the police in their job is if e-bikes and scooters that are not speed limited were required to be registered with clearly visible registration plates, and the riders licensed.