

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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E-Mobility

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland.

- On the 25th of July 2024, my wife and I, as well as other pedestrians, witnessed two e-bikes crash into a bicycle rider in Neo Park, Varsity Lakes. Paramedics were called along with the police. The bicycle rider sustained head and body injuries and was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital. The two e-bike riders did not stop to render help for the injured man but instead fled the scene. The Police admitted there was not much they could do, as the two e-bike riders were long gone. It was noted that the two e-bike riders did not wear specifically designed e-bike helmets but instead wore motorbike helmets that covers the face of the e-bike riders, making identification impossible.
- Gold Coast police reported that they had been questioning two teenagers who were clocked riding an e-bike at more than 120kph on a main road. Queensland police have also reported children as young as 12 riding high-powered illegal e-bikes on city streets.
- In the five years ending in April 2025, the University of Melbourne study found that 30 e-scooter deaths were reported across Australia.

Data Breakdown by state/territory:

Qld: 15 deaths

WA: 6 deaths

Vic: 6 deaths

NSW: 2 deaths

Act: 1 death.

Of those deaths, 11 were under the age of 18.

- The Gold Coast University Hospital saw 577 e-transport injuries in the past 12 months, a 600% increase in injuries from e-scooters and e-bikes.
- Sunshine Coast police have used drone technology as part of a weekend blitz, targeting offenders on e-bikes, e-scooters, e-bicycles and e-skateboard riders.
- Not insured, not licensed and not registered means that action is needed to ensure that members of the public can recoup adequate compensation from e-bike, e-scooter, e-bicycle, and e-skateboard riders.
- A suggestion put forward is that if e-bike riders are caught not following the law/road rules, demerit points could be incorporated that may affect their future application for a driver's car licence. After all, having a motor vehicle licence to drive a car is a privilege, not a right.
- The Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) is advocating for mandatory insurance, including third-party liability, for all e-mobility devices, such as e-bikes and e-scooters, in NSW. They emphasize the need for this to protect both riders and the public from potential accidents and injuries. The ALA is particularly concerned about the growing number of privately owned e-scooters and e-bikes on public roads and paths, and the potential for serious injuries, especially to pedestrians.
- In Australia, the rules are confusing, and there is limited regulation for private e-scooters, which poses risks to users and pedestrians.

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