

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I think the law is playing catch up with personal mobility devices so changes need to be made. I believe any laws or regulations need to have a balance between freedom and reasonable restrictions & safeguards to protect the public at large. I don't think Personal Mobility Devices (PMD's) should be outright banned. Firstly I think that the current speed restrictions on devices should stay unless the device is registered. By registering, a device would be allowed to travel at higher speeds if they displayed a plate or identification number. The cost of registration would cover the administrative cost of process the registration as well as Compulsory Third Party Insurance (CTP). This could be managed through the same mechanisms as vehicle registrations with TMR. This solves the biggest issue with regards to liability when someone (other than the rider) gets injured in an accident. Secondly, some common sense laws to support my first point. Riders must travel at a safe speed for the conditions. For example, an open bikeway away from the road with no other users could allow high speed. A footpath shared with pedestrians would require much slower speed and appropriate caution. I also think that the immediate result of being given an in person infringement should be confiscation of the device for a predetermined period, similar to the hoon laws. This will help provide a deterrent to bad behaviour. If the device is a hire device, then the cost could be recovered through the owner from the offender. After repeat offences, then the device could be forfeited. Thirdly, there needs to be consistent rules for their passage on public transport. Currently electric scooters are allowed on trains but not on buses, even if the bus is replacing the train service. The rule could be altered to require them to be in a designated luggage area on the bus. Fourth, there needs to be some development into effective ways to fight lithium battery fires. It may be appropriate to implement certain standards or laws about batteries, their usage and recharging to help reduce the risk of fires.