

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Hi, my concerns and submissions primarily involve policing E-bikes in order to make the rider safer by wearing appropriate helmets. Firstly due to the speeds of E-Bikes the rider would have to wear a motorbike standard helmet rather than a bicycle standard. E-bikes all achieve speeds of 40kmh and faster so standard bicycle helmets are inadequate if they are even worn at all. To enforce this standard of compulsory helmet and wearing it then enforcement penalties for failing to wear a helmet also needs to be significantly higher. Being that most E-bikes are ridden by juveniles current fines are basically toothless as juveniles won't pay the fine and no repercussion. However if we increased the Fail to wear helmet fine to minimum \$1000 then not only is the amount a deterrent but also made any unpaid fines be reviewed with SPER against the juvenile so that they were then unable to obtain a Learners licence or P licence until all fines were fully paid. This would have long lasting consequences and encourage either juveniles to wear helmets and not obtain fines or at the least pay the financial penalty as majority will want a drivers licence at some point. Finally to assist enforcement at schools, have designated teachers reporting or observing juveniles riding EBikes without appropriate helmets then passing information to police for enforcement action and also police attending schools sporadically and all EBikes at the school at the time, have the juvenile identified and produce an appropriate helmet at the time or a fine issued (as obviously can't have ridden to school wearing one or intending to ride it without one). This would clamp down on juveniles riding unprotected and reduce serious injuries as well as perhaps a deterrent to actually owning or riding one of they are covered to wear and carry a motorbike standard helmet.