

Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 388

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Publication: Making the submission and your name public

I am writing as the owner of a regional tourism business located at the northern end of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail.

Our business operates in a small regional town that has increasingly positioned itself as a destination for rail trail visitors. This has been supported by significant public investment in the BVRT, as well as private investment by local businesses who have grown alongside its success.

Since acquiring the business in 2017, we have made ongoing investments in accommodation, amenities, and guest services to support the increasing number of visitors travelling specifically to experience the BVRT. This includes upgrades to cabins, new amenities, and improvements designed to cater for groups and multi night stays.

These investments have been made with confidence in the continued growth of the BVRT as a key regional tourism driver.

Growth in BVRT Visitation:

We have seen a clear and consistent increase in visitors travelling to the region for the purpose of riding the BVRT.

This includes:

- day visitors and overnight guests from South East Queensland
- interstate travellers planning multi day rides
- international visitors seeking regional Australian experiences

A significant proportion of these visitors rely on compliant pedal assist e bikes.

E bikes have expanded the accessibility of the trail well beyond traditional cyclists. Many guests would not attempt the BVRT without pedal assist, particularly for longer distances or multi day rides.

Impact on Regional Economy

The BVRT is not just a recreational asset. It is a key economic driver for the region.

Visitors contribute to:

- accommodation providers
- local cafes and food outlets
- fuel stations and essential services
- tour operators and support services

Any reduction in participation due to increased regulatory barriers will have a direct and immediate impact on regional economies.

For businesses like ours, this is not theoretical. It affects occupancy, group bookings, and the viability of continued investment.

Risk to Return on Public Investment

The BVRT has benefited from substantial government funding and is widely promoted as a flagship regional tourism experience.

Its success is closely linked to accessibility.

E bikes have played a major role in increasing participation and broadening the demographic of users. Introducing restrictions that limit their use risks reducing visitation and undermining the return on that public investment.

Regional vs Urban Application of Policy

It is important to distinguish between e mobility use in urban environments and on designated regional recreational trails.

Many of the issues driving this legislation appear to arise in high density urban settings.

In contrast, the BVRT:

operates in a low traffic, open environment
is purpose built for recreational use
has established patterns of shared use

Applying uniform rules across both settings may result in unintended consequences for regional areas.

Accessibility and Inclusion

E bikes have made the BVRT accessible to a wider range of people, including older riders and those who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Reducing access to e bikes risks excluding these groups and limiting opportunities for active recreation in regional Queensland.

Recommendation

I respectfully request that consideration be given to:

tailored provisions or exemptions for designated recreational trails such as the BVRT
recognition of compliant pedal assist e bikes as distinct from higher powered devices
ensuring that regulatory changes do not unintentionally reduce access to regional tourism infrastructure
Closing

The BVRT represents a successful partnership between public investment and private enterprise.

Regional businesses have invested in good faith to support and grow this asset. It is important that any legislative changes do not unintentionally disrupt that progress.

Careful consideration of regional impacts will help ensure that the BVRT continues to deliver economic, social, and health benefits to Queensland communities.