TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Submission No:	3
Submitted by:	Queensland Tourism Industry Council
Publication:	
Attachments: Submitter Comments:	No attachment



07 3236 1445 | info@qtic.com.au qtic.com.au | () () () () () 189 Grey Street SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101

The Voice of Tourism

Level 5, 189 Grey Street SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101 PO Box 13162, George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

30 October 2023

Committee Secretary Transport and Resources Committee Parliament House George Street Brisbane Qld 4000 trc@parliament.qld.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Re: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Transport and Resources Committee regarding the *Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*.

QTIC is the peak industry body and leading advocate for the tourism, hospitality, and events sectors in Queensland, committed to the growth and sustainability of the state visitor economy. Our efforts focus on powerful lobbying, policy development, and collaboration with key industry stakeholders to create a favourable business environment for operators. As a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation, we take pride in ensuring that the concerns and needs of our members and the broader tourism industry inform all relevant policy debates and that businesses have strong representation in decision-making processes. By promoting the value and importance of tourism in government forums and to the wider community, we help to create a vibrant, diverse industry that benefits all.

QTIC recognises and promotes the invaluable contribution tourism makes to national, state, and local economies. The Queensland tourism industry constitutes 6.7% of total state employment with 206,200 direct and indirect jobs, generating \$33.2 billion in Overnight Visitor Expenditure (OVE) as of YE June 2023.¹ It is important to note that for every dollar spent on tourism, an additional 85 cents is circulated elsewhere in the economy.²

Micromobility (including e-scooters and bicycles) fulfils a specific role in the Queensland tourism landscape. It offers convenient, sustainable, and affordable means of transport, improving the visitor experience by reducing congestion and providing diverse transportation choices, while also promoting active lifestyles. In addition, micromobility encourages visitors to explore precincts beyond well-known tourism offerings, facilitating engagement with a wider range of businesses. Ensuring the safety of e-scooters and e-bikes within the micromobility experience is vital. Promoting safe usage of these services demonstrates prioritisation of user wellbeing, but also upholds positive perception of the tourism industry, fosters visitor confidence, and mitigates any future issues that may arise.

QTIC regularly collaborates with our university partners to support advocacy on legislative matters impacting the tourism industry, ensuring alignment between research expertise and industry insights. In preparing this submission, QTIC has sought advice from Dr Richard Buning (University of

¹ Tourism and Events Queensland (2023) <u>Queensland tourism economic key facts</u>, TEQ, accessed 20 October 2023.

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² Tourism Research Australia (2023) <u>State Tourism Satellite Account 2021-22</u>, accessed 20 October 2023.

Queensland), whose research explores active transport and micromobility as significant drivers of visitor behaviour.

We offer the following specific recommendations on the Bill:

- Due care lacks a clear definition, especially concerning e-scooter use, making it essential to define what constitutes due care and provide specific guidelines for e-scooter riders.
- PMD laws and policies greatly vary across city, state, and country, with visitors frequently
 relying on their knowledge from their home communities when using personal mobility
 devices in Queensland. It is crucial that visitors can easily understand and acknowledge these
 regulations. A straightforward communication plan is required to share all current and
 proposed PMD laws with tourists.

There is an opportunity to utilise the tourism visitor information centres network across Queensland, and collaborate with key industry stakeholders like QTIC, the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport, Tourism and Events Queensland, destination marketing organisations and micromobility providers to ensure consistent messaging. This approach should be clear and accessible, employing various communication channels, including websites, mobile apps, and physical signage.

- Mandate that micromobility providers educate users on road rules before they can use their devices. In addition, providers should be required to collect necessary documentation from riders in the event of accidents or injuries, which can be invaluable for investigations and insurance claims.
- The Queensland Government should consider planning for micromobility-only pathways and incorporating safe wayfinding routes and signage specifically for micromobility use.

QTIC looks forward to contributing to any future discussions arising from this review and supporting the work of the Transport and Resources Committee. For further discussion regarding points raised in this submission, please contact QTIC at (07) 3236 1445 or policy@qtic.com.au.

Yours sincerely. Brett Fraser **Chief Executive Officer**