

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

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Transport and Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

trc@parliament.qld.gov.au

25 October 2023

Dear Committee Members,

RE: QDN Response to the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is pleased to provide this brief response to the Transport and Resources Committee with regards to road safety amendments of personal mobility devices such as e-scooters. QDN supports the overall intent of the Bill to improve the safety of Queenslanders.

Background and Context

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) is an organisation of, for, and with people with disability. The organisation's motto is "nothing about us without us". QDN operates a state-wide network of over 2,000 members and supporters who provide information, feedback and views from a consumer perspective to inform systemic disability policy and disability advocacy.

QDN is a member of the Personal Mobility Device Safety Reference Group.

QDN response

QDN and QDN members' involvement and interest in this legislation is based on a range of reports from QDN members since 2021 raising concerns about the impact of e-scooters and the way they are used. Concerns relate mainly to the adverse impacts felt by pedestrians with disability, particularly those who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision or use a wheelchair or other mobility device.

QDN commends the consideration of people with disability by the Transport and Resources Committee and encourages ongoing engagement with people with disability to find solutions to e-scooter safety concerns.

QDN supports the proposed changes outlined in this Bill to:

- introduce a new offence for the rider of a Personal Mobility Device (PMD) or bike to ride with due care on road-related areas such as footpaths and bikeways,

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- post-crash obligations for PMD riders where a crash occurs on road-related areas, and
- protections for vulnerable people who may not be able to exchange information with other people involved in crashes.

In the implementation of this legislation, consideration is required to implement a robust education and awareness raising campaign around the changed rules and regulations and the impact of e-scooters on people with disability. QDN commends the collaborative work done with e-scooter hire companies to date however we recommend strategies also include:

- Co-design of education and awareness raising strategies and actions with people with disability
- Communications materials translated into languages other than English for the high proportion of tourists hiring e-scooters particularly in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Text message communications reminding people who have hired e-scooters about road rules and safety
- Signage in areas of high e-scooter traffic communicating new road rules particularly for private owners of e-scooters who may not otherwise be aware of changed legislation.

QDN also highlights the need for future changes to legislation to include:

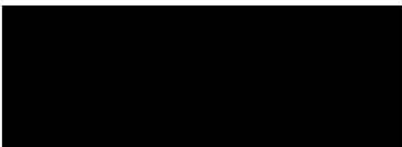
- Stronger regulation through registration of personal mobility devices
- Legislation around alcohol use and e-scooter riding.

QDN commends the Transport and Resources Committee on continuous improvements to safety for all Queenslanders including those with disability to socially and economically participate in their communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this submission regarding the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.

We look forward to hearing the outcomes and QDN is happy to provide further advice if required. Please call us on 3252 8566 if you require further information on our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Moss
Chief Executive Officer
Queenslanders with Disability Network