



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

### **Ninderry Electorate, Personal Mobility Devices; Meals on Wheels**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.04 pm): There is no doubt that the top concerns of residents in my electorate are cost of living, youth crime, housing and health. Another issue that is striking fear into the hearts of many residents is the reckless behaviour of young people riding e-scooters and e-bikes. I acknowledge this form of transport is rapidly gaining favour as a low-cost alternative and, while the average age of a rider is apparently closer to 30, there is a growing number of younger people taking it up. As a result, I have been receiving many complaints from locals about younger riders showing complete disregard for rules, including speeding and riding on footpaths, not wearing helmets, weaving in and out of traffic, doubling and generally risky behaviour. E-bikes pose an even greater threat due to their size and greater speeds but fall under the same rules that apply to e-scooters. Earlier this week my local bowls club reported a person on an e-bike caught speeding across the green. They were reprimanded by the greenkeeper and the issue was reported to the police, but without any evidence little can be done.

Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable to the erratic actions of young and inexperienced riders who display no fear and no road-sense. I have heard from a number of older residents who have escaped serious injury after close encounters with these electric devices. They are genuinely fearful of being caught off guard or being hit by a reckless young rider travelling at speed. Queensland's Injury Surveillance Unit has revealed a six-fold increase over the past 3½ years in the number of children presenting at our emergency departments due to injuries from e-scooters and e-bikes. Our police are doing the best they can to enforce the rules, but in the midst of a crime crisis when they are already seriously under-resourced tasking them with this growing problem is not the answer. Education is vital, particularly for the parents of teenagers who are the worst offenders when it comes to the rules, but the government also needs to do more, including fast-tracking actions identified in the 2022 PMD safety action plan to ensure the safety of our community, particularly our older residents.

On another topic while I am on my feet with relevance to my electorate and I am sure other electorates, earlier this week it was alarming to read that Meals on Wheels has reported a \$3 million loss in revenue and nearly 10,000 volunteers in the past year. Combined with the drop in volunteers following COVID and increasing demand from those aged under 65, Meals on Wheels needs our help. Locally, we are very lucky. Coolum Meals on Wheels has a wonderful crew of around 150 dedicated locals together with the amazing staff who deliver more than 21,000 meals every year to our community. However, the pressures facing this service statewide serve as a reminder of the importance of volunteers. If you have any time to spare, please give a thought to helping out.