



Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

E-Mobility Safety and Use

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.06 pm): Total public consensus can be hard to achieve, but this LNP government has done it. There is collective agreement across Queensland that this LNP Crisafulli government is failing to keep the public safe when it comes to e-scooters, e-bikes and illegal e-motorbikes. The RACQ calls it a crisis on our footpaths and roads—crisis exacerbated by this government's refusal to deliver urgent action. When announcing the parliamentary inquiry the transport minister said—

We must do more to ensure no-one else is injured and not another life is lost. We cannot turn a blind eye to illegal e-scooters and e-bikes or to dangerous behaviour.

We are now six months into a year-long process and this government has nothing to show for it. We know that the departmental draft for this inquiry had it wrapping up by now so why is this government delaying action? Just yesterday this government brought forward an inquiry of the Primary Industries and Resources Committee by three months so this is not an unusual occurrence. This happens all the time. If it can happen for sugar, it should happen for e-mobility where people's lives are at stake.

Horrific accidents on these devices continue to occur almost every week. The year is already shaping up as one of the deadliest years on our roads with an increased rate of fatalities, made all the more worse by the recent tragic deaths of three young boys on e-bikes on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Everyone knows what is needed—riders need to be educated, parents need to be supported, retailers need to be better regulated and the rules need to be enforced. Better age restrictions for under-16s is also widely called for.

The lack of leadership from the Premier and his transport minister is so stark that schools have been forced to step in to protect their students. Three schools on the Sunshine Coast have announced bans on e-bikes and e-scooters from next year. These principals should be commended for their leadership. In commending them, we should ask why did it fall on them to act? This Premier is spending millions of dollars of taxpayer money to promote himself, but he refuses to commission a public awareness campaign on e-bikes and illegal e-motorbikes in the lead-up to Christmas. This is a Premier more concerned with strongarming Bluey into appearing on stage with him and changing the Queensland state colour from maroon to blue than with saving lives.

They say all politics is local so the Premier could almost be forgiven for not grasping the urgency of the unfolding situation on the Gold Coast given he is no longer a Gold Coast local. Where are the calls from the more vocal of the Gold Coast LNP MPs to act now? The Crisafulli government had the chance in parliament today to support Labor's eminently sensible and reasonable initiative to have e-bike safety measures implemented by Christmas. In fact, we were not even calling for that. Our motion in parliament was completely uncontroversial, seeking only to fast-track safety measures that can help

stop the needless deaths we are seeing on e-bikes. For whatever reason, the Crisafulli government refused to undertake such a commitment, instead insisting it will not take action until some time next year.

What about this transport minister? Tomorrow he is meeting with his counterparts from across Australia. When they go around the table and say what they are doing about these deaths and injuries on our streets, what will he say? We know he does not have a personal commitment to road safety: filming himself speeding and laughing it off. Please, Minister, stand up to the Premier on this and do something before Christmas.