



Speech By Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

e-Mobility Safety, Parliamentary Inquiry

Hon. BA MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.09 am): Personal e-mobility devices such as e-scooters and e-bikes are being used more and more as a means for Queenslanders to get to work, school or university or to link with our public transport network. With that increased use comes an increased need to ensure public safety is upheld and risks are minimised, while enabling Queenslanders to take full benefit of these new and emerging methods of transport.

Between 2021 and 2024, there was a 112 per cent increase in injuries to PMD riders and passengers and pedestrians, and, tragically, we have seen eight fatalities in the past year. 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 do not do it with vehicles on our roads, and we sure will not stand for it on our footpaths.

While our government's view is that the existing laws in relation to the use of e-mobility devices are not adequate, the laws that are in place now are still being applied and enforced in the community. By way of example, I know of a young person in Kawana who was caught on an illegal e-bike on the road and fined \$1,200—as he should have been. The former Labor government left our police woefully understaffed. We want to support our officers to monitor and enforce Queensland's laws effectively. I want to thank our police for their increased focus on enforcing the existing laws—something the Minister for Police and I have worked together on to deliver.

Alarmingly, most of the devices that are causing problems are illegal and should never have been allowed into the country. We are doing everything we can to plug the hole in the dam wall, but we need the federal government to close the loopholes that are seeing illegal and unsafe e-scooters and e-bikes so easily imported into Australia. I have previously raised the need for strengthened importation enforcement of those devices with Minister King and at the cross-jurisdictional road safety ministers meeting, and I will continue to do so. Today we go a step further.

Today I can announce that the Crisafulli government will ask the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to commence a parliamentary inquiry into e-mobility safety in Queensland. The inquiry will hold hearings, accept submissions and consider the benefits of e-mobility devices, any key safety issues associated with ownership or use, suitability of the current rules and how to improve enforcement approaches, including what has been tried and tested in other jurisdictions. I eagerly await the committee's findings and I encourage the entire community and all members to have their say by providing a submission to the inquiry. Together we will deliver a safe and reliable transport option which leaves a lasting legacy for Queenslanders while maintaining safety where all Queenslanders live.