



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION (MANAGING E-MOBILITY USE AND PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.29 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Transport and Other Legislation (Managing E-mobility Use and Protecting Our Communities) Amendment Bill 2026. At the outset, I acknowledge that this legislation has generated significant community discussion and debate. It is a complex policy area and one where there are genuinely diverse views held by Queenslanders. In my own electorate of Moggill, many residents are regular cyclists and active transport users. Organisations such as the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group have engaged throughout this process and have provided considered and extensive feedback on aspects of the bill. I acknowledge their advocacy, their contribution to this debate and their work in encouraging active transport across our community.

I also acknowledge the substantial engagement that has occurred through the parliamentary committee process. The State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee received almost 5,000 submissions and heard from a broad range of stakeholders.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): Member for Maiwar.

Dr ROWAN: The level of engagement demonstrates both the importance of this issue and the strong community interest in ensuring any reforms are practical, proportionate and effective. The committee ultimately recommended that the bill be passed—

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I caution you.

Dr ROWAN:—while identifying a range of matters for consideration and enhancement. As legislators, and on this subject, we must carefully balance a range of competing interests. That is the point that the member for Maiwar will never understand when he comes into this place: that there are competing interests and we have to get a balanced approach.

Mr Berkman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, you are warned.

Dr ROWAN: We must support active transport, encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for Queenslanders to choose alternatives to private vehicle travel. At the same time—and this is what the member for Maiwar will not understand—we have a responsibility to ensure our roads, pathways and shared spaces are safe for everyone who uses them.

I have been a strong supporter of active transport. Across the western suburbs of Brisbane, many residents choose to walk, cycle or use other forms of active transport for recreation, commuting and exercise. These activities contribute positively to individual health outcomes, reduce congestion and enhance community connectivity. However, it is equally clear that the rapid growth in e-mobility devices has created new challenges that existing laws have struggled to address.

As with communities across Queensland, local residents have shared with me their growing concerns about high-powered illegal devices, unsafe rider behaviour, pedestrian safety and increasing injury rates. Between 2022 and 2025 alone, more than 6,000 e-scooter injuries were recorded in Queensland hospitals. Those figures cannot simply be ignored. This legislation seeks to respond to those challenges through a considered package of reforms that place community safety at the forefront. As a former president of the Australian Medical Association Queensland, I place significant importance on the submission of the AMAQ with reference to morbidity and mortality and resultant impacts on our health and hospital system. I have also noted the comments of the president-elect of the AMAQ, Associate Professor Erica Gannon.

This legislation provides Queensland Police Service officers with stronger powers to seize dangerous and illegal devices. It introduces a targeted offence framework for high-risk behaviour. It establishes alcohol limits and random breath testing provisions. It strengthens penalties for unsafe conduct and introduces greater accountability for retailers supplying illegal devices. Most importantly, it seeks to improve safety outcomes for pedestrians, riders and the broader community.

Importantly, the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has demonstrated a willingness to listen throughout this process. Following consideration of community feedback, amendments have been made, including to recognise compliance pathways for e-bikes, establish assurance mechanisms and provide exemption frameworks where appropriate. These amendments reflect a government that has listened to concerns while remaining focused on the primary objective of improving safety outcomes. These reforms represent a genuine attempt to strike the right balance. They support those Queenslanders who choose to do the right thing, while targeting illegal and dangerous behaviour that places others at risk.

Whilst discussing these transport matters, I also want to highlight an important initiative currently underway in the western suburbs of Brisbane. I am pleased that the delivery of my election commitment for an integrated road and public transport plan for the electorate of Moggill and the western suburbs of Brisbane continues to progress strongly. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for the work he has progressed to date. Community engagement has been outstanding, with substantial feedback received. I have been particularly encouraged by the strong attendance at community consultation sessions and the thoughtful feedback that local residents have provided, particularly with respect to public and active transport options and associated infrastructure.

In concluding my contribution, I want to say that this legislation strikes the right balance, and that is something the member for Maiwar is constantly unable to achieve when he comes into this place. He does not understand that there are competing interests when it comes to these important public policy matters. In fact, the Labor opposition—who often side with the member for Maiwar or the member for Maiwar sides with the Labor opposition; they are hand in glove—also do not understand that there are competing interests which need to be balanced out. This is an important public policy matter and this legislation strikes the right balance. I commend the minister for his work, and I commend the parliamentary committee for its scrutiny and due diligence. With those words, I commend the bill to the House.