

**Submission
No 220**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF E-SCOOTERS, E-BIKES AND
RELATED MOBILITY OPTIONS**

Name: Mr Mark Rainey

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1. **Government Roles and Responsibilities:** The federal, state, and local governments each have crucial roles in promoting and regulating e-scooters and e-bikes. Federally, the focus is on national policy development and funding. State governments manage the legislative framework, including road safety laws and infrastructure investments. Local councils handle on-the-ground implementation, such as infrastructure maintenance and public space management. Future roles will likely involve expanding infrastructure, enforcing safety regulations, and facilitating integration with public transport systems.

2. **Regulatory Framework Reform:** Reforming the regulatory framework can enhance safety and usability. Key areas for improvement include standardizing rules across jurisdictions, setting clear safety standards for e-mobility devices, and addressing the challenges posed by shared schemes. Consistent regulations on speed limits, helmet use, and parking will improve safety and reduce confusion among users.

3. **Stakeholder Perspectives:** Local councils, industry, and stakeholders offer diverse views. Councils often report safety concerns but acknowledge the benefits of reduced congestion. Industry stakeholders emphasize the need for supportive infrastructure and clear regulations. Community feedback highlights the convenience and environmental benefits but also calls for improved safety measures and better integration with existing transport networks.

4. **Improving Mobility and Safety:** Opportunities to enhance e-mobility include expanding dedicated lanes, improving signage, and integrating safety features in devices. Enhancing public awareness through education campaigns and providing user-friendly mobile apps can also improve the overall experience and safety for users and pedestrians.

5. **Regulatory and Policy Benefits and Risks:** Current regulations like the Roads Act 1993 and Road Rules provide a framework for e-mobility but do not fully address the unique challenges of these devices. Benefits include structured oversight, while risks involve outdated rules and inconsistent enforcement. Updating policies to better accommodate e-mobility devices is essential for safety and efficiency.

6. **Community Benefits:** E-mobility devices encourage a shift from car travel to more sustainable options, help alleviate congestion, and offer affordable transportation solutions. They are particularly beneficial for underserved communities and can boost tourism by providing convenient transport for visitors. As an example, Dorrigo in regional NSW has built a paved pathway from the township out to Dangar Falls. This would be perfect for the use of E-mobility devices. The towns of Urunga, Woolgoolga and Coffs Harbour also have many suitable pathways.

7. **Government Improvement Opportunities:** Governments can enhance outcomes by investing in dedicated infrastructure, harmonizing regulations, and fostering collaborations with private sector and community groups. Addressing diverse user needs through comprehensive planning and policy updates will be crucial.

8. **Best Practices:** Internationally, cities like Copenhagen and Berlin provide effective models, with extensive infrastructure and supportive policies for e-mobility. These practices offer valuable insights for Australian cities to develop robust e-mobility frameworks.

9. **Economic Analysis:** E-mobility devices contribute to safer night transport for shift workers and women, support mode shift away from cars, and enhance first and last-mile connectivity.

Economic analyses highlight their role in reducing transportation costs and improving access, which benefits both individuals and the broader community.

In summary, e-scooters and e-bikes present significant opportunities for enhancing urban mobility. Through regulatory reforms, stakeholder engagement, and investment in infrastructure, these devices can contribute positively to transportation systems, safety, and environmental sustainability. They also have a positive effect on the people using them, they are enjoyable to ride, and encourage people to be outdoors.