



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

22 July 2020

Hon Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Via email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

E-Scooters in Queensland

Dear Minister Bailey,

I am writing to ask the government to make it easier to use e-scooters on public transport and on the roads in Queensland. In particular, I hope that the government will consider allowing e-scooters on trains during off-peak / counterflow services alongside bikes and non-electric scooters, as well as allowing e-scooters to use bike lanes and roads where it is safe to do so.

E-Scooters on Public Transport

Current Translink rules state:

- "You can take small non-motorised recreational scooters on any TransLink service"; but
- "Motorised recreational scooters are not permitted on board".

The prohibition on e-scooters on public transport, even during off-peak or counterflow services is perplexing to me given (non-electric) scooters and bikes are currently allowed onboard. Given the potential uses of e-scooters as last-mile transit, and the importance of reducing car dependency, I would fully support moves to allow e-scooters onto public transport.

E-Scooters in Bike Lanes

In December 2018, your Government regulated the use of e-scooters, which included a number of changes to the circumstances in which the use of e-scooters will be lawful or not.

The rules include provisions that:

- "You can also ride on local streets, where it is safe to do so. A local street is a road with a speed limit of 50km/h or less. It must have no dividing line or median strip and if it is a one-way road, it can't have more than one lane"; and
- "You must not ride on main roads or streets in the Brisbane CBD."

I have been contacted by a number of constituents raising concerns over pedestrian safety, citing conflict between riders of e-scooters who are forced to use footpaths due to the current rules.

I support moves to allow e-scooters to use roads and on-road bicycle lanes along the same lines as the rules for cyclists. The differentiation between lawful use of e-scooters and bicycles is difficult to

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reconcile, given that e-scooters can travel at similar speeds to bicycles (up to 25km/h under current rules), and e-scooter riders use similar safety equipment to cyclists (helmet, bell, front and rear lights etc).

My experience, and the experience of constituents who have contacted me about this issue, is that the differences in speed between pedestrians and riders creates a significant risk of collision that would be substantially addressed by allowing scooters to use roads and bicycle lanes as cyclists currently do.

With increased use of active transport in our city, there is greater need for a comprehensive network of infrastructure that allows for proper separation between pedestrians, bicycles, e-scooters and motor vehicles, to ensure everyone can get around safely. I urge you to review the current rules around use of e-scooters as part of your plans for improved infrastructure.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please contact my office on (07) 3737 4100. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Berkman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Berkman MP