

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Motorised Scooters

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

Motorised Scooters

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (9.41 pm): I rise to express my dire concerns about the reckless use of motorised scooters on the boardwalk in Surfers Paradise. As the member for Surfers Paradise, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of my constituents and those who visit my electorate. The Esplanade boardwalk, which stretches from central Surfers Paradise to Narrowneck, is a popular walking destination for families, the elderly and everyone in between. With views of our golden beaches, it is no wonder that my electorate is the second most instagrammed place in Australia. #ourgoldcoast is the Gold Coast city's own hashtag. Unfortunately, the popular boardwalk is plagued by people riding motorised scooters and weaving through the crowds. All too often, I hear of or witness near misses involving children, people being clipped and elderly residents being knocked to the ground. Scooter hire businesses boast that they do not require a licence, there are no age restrictions and hirers do not need registration or CTP insurance. They are silent and they run amok on our streets.

As it stands, the current legislation allows people to ride a motorised bicycle on all footpaths, except where bicycles are prohibited. The Department of Transport and Main Roads website states that a legalised motorised bicycle must be either—

1. A bicycle with an electric motor capable of generating no more than 200 watts of power.
2. A 'pedalec'—a bicycle with an electric motor capable of generating up to 250 watts of power, but the motor cuts out at 25km/h and the pedals must be used to keep the motor operating.

In his response to my emails, the Minister for Main Roads advised that the Office of Fair Trading was investigating the compliance with legislation of these motorised scooters in Surfers Paradise, but the point is that those scooters, in whatever form they take, do not belong on footpaths. I table correspondence between the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, and the Premier regarding this issue.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters regarding riding electric scooters and bikes on footpaths in Surfers Paradise.

Mayor Tate is certainly right in asking for a review into the current legislation. That move will ultimately prevent a potentially fatal or near-fatal accident on our paths and provide some certainty, consistency and clarity for those operating a business renting motorised scooters. This issue is not just limited to Surfers Paradise. As it currently stands, police are expected to be johnny-on-the-spot to catch people riding recklessly on our footpaths. That is not sustainable and our police have better things to do.

My constituents rightly expect to be safe when they are out on our streets, whether it be on the Esplanade or Cavill Mall and all the way to Narrowneck. Recently I received an email from a constituent saying that he and his wife were almost hit by six motorised scooters as they left their home on Sunday, 12 February. He was extremely concerned about the fact that many of his friends, including seniors, are anxious about travelling along the footpath because of motorised scooters. The Friends of Federation Walk contacted me to say that motorised scooters are wreaking havoc all the way to the Spit. I know that I have the backing of Mayor Tom Tate, the Surfers Paradise Alliance, Division Seven Councillor Gary Baidon and my constituents in calling for this legislation to be reviewed, so that we can get motorised scooters off our footpaths.