



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group

CBD BUG

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The Honourable Mark Bailey MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write this letter on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members, to congratulate you for the permit that is allowing the current trial of Lime e-scooters on footpath and shared paths in and around the Brisbane CBD.

The CBD BUG had noted from media reports covering this initiative that there was some friction against the introduction of these scooters, with public warnings coming from your department that as these devices were illegal under the Queensland Road Rules users could be liable for fines of up to \$10,444.

In the past these types of issues around the introduction of alternatives to the private motor vehicle have been difficult to overcome, with the use of skateboards and skates for transport currently hindered by laws restricting their times of use and the types of roads they can be used on, and motorised wheelchairs currently being limited to only 10km/h. In particular we note that similar types of electric scooters and electric skateboards have been available for private purchase for many years, and have been peacefully coexisting with cyclists and pedestrians alike. The only example we can find of a previous similar law relaxation is the legalisation of Segways in 2013 by then Minister Scott Emerson.

Therefore, we were delighted when it was announced that you had stepped in to ensure a permit was provided allowing this e-scooters trial to proceed.

After a little more than two weeks into this trial the further media reports about the large number of people who have signed up to use these scooters and the more than 50,000 trips made already attest to its popularity and the demand in the community for alternative transport modes.

Furthermore, our members have reported negligible undesirable activity by users of these e-scooters, who are recognised as posing very little risk to bicycle riders in comparison to the dangers from motor vehicle drivers.

In view of these points a motion was passed unanimously by CBD BUG members at our 28 November 2018 General Meeting that a letter should be sent to thank you for enabling this e-scooter trial.

In closing I would also like to draw your attention to a 10 December 2018 article in *The Australian* (*Road rules hurdle for share scooter operators*) indicating Lime scooters are prevented from being used in that state due to the apparent requirement that users hold a motorcycle licence.

It is hard to fathom such a requirement when, to even the casual observer, it is clear these e-scooters do not pose the same risk as motorcycles that can typically attain speeds well over 100km/h.

With Queensland leading this urban travel revolution in Australia it is suggested you may like to mention this directly to your ministerial counterparts from other jurisdictions and tell them how successful Brisbane's e-scooters trial has already been.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Paul ...', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
13 December 2018