



E-scooter safety

Number 45, 2023

Part of the [Tranzinfo Hot Topics](#) series, this issue offers a selection of recent material on e-scooter safety. The popularity of e-scooters and other micromobility devices has increased markedly across the world in a short space of time, driven by their perceived [environmental benefits](#) and potential to ease traffic congestion by encouraging [active transport](#). However, with the surge in popularity has come a sharp increase in serious accidents and injuries, as well as battery fire risks, which has left authorities and operators scrambling for ways to regulate the devices or introduce new technology to make them safer for both riders and pedestrians. Many jurisdictions around the world are now [re-thinking](#) their enthusiasm for e-scooters, with Paris recently [banning their use](#), and other jurisdictions [scrapping trials](#).

Contents:

[Safety problems](#)
[Solutions](#)

Safety problems

[Call for changes to e-scooter rules after latest crashes](#)

The Age, 5 January 2023

Inconsistent rules governing the use of e-scooters are holding back their adoption and creating mixed messages for riders, according to experts.

[Concerns over growing number of fires linked to lithium-ion batteries in e-scooters and e-bikes](#)

ABC News, 18 January 2023

A growing number of fires across Australia have been linked to lithium-ion batteries, which are used to power light electric mobility vehicles like e-scooters and e-bikes.

[Serious e-scooter crashes on the rise in WA, as new mode of transport explodes in popularity](#)

ABC News, 25 March 2023

Trauma doctors in WA say they are seeing an exponential rise in e-scooter related injuries, with a significant number of people riding while drunk, on drugs or without a helmet.

[The e-scooter loophole that left crash victim struggling to get by](#)

The Age, 3 April 2023

Lawyers are calling for an expansion of compulsory third-party insurance for e-scooters to protect people injured in crashes, as the Victorian government last week announced an extension of its trial of the devices.

['Bottom of the food chain': e-scooter riders push for reimagining of Australia's bike lanes](#)

The Guardian, 17 September 2023

Bike lanes should be redesigned to safely accommodate micromobility devices such as motorised wheelchairs and e-scooters, according to urban planners.

[Parents urged to change mindset on e-scooters as accidents involving children surge](#)

ABC News, 26 September 2023

Queensland's Injury Surveillance Unit data shows a six-fold increase over the past three and a half years in the number of children presenting at the state's emergency departments with injuries from e-transport accidents.

[Increased fire risk from charging e-bikes due to lack of battery regulation in Australia, expert says](#)

The Guardian, 5 October 2023

A lack of regulation of lithium-ion batteries in Australia is resulting in the use of lower quality products, which is increasing the risk of e-bike battery fires.

[Doctors warn of serious injuries as e-scooter crash presentations spike](#)

The Age, 25 October 2023

Doctors are warning of the life-changing impacts of crashes involving e-scooters, as the number of serious injuries has spiked since Melbourne's e-scooter trial started in January 2022.

[Darwin study finds badly injured e-scooter users are adding to the public health system's workload](#)

ABC News, 20 October 2022

A new study tracked the impact of e-scooter accidents on the Northern Territory public health system.

[Hospitalisations involving e-scooter riders up 234 per cent in a year](#)

The Age, 27 November 2022

Recent data from Victorian public hospitals shows a steep rise in injuries among e-scooter riders, with men aged 20-24 the most likely to be injured.

[Back to top](#)

Solutions

[ETSC and PACTS set out safety recommendations for e-scooters and their riders](#)

European Transport Safety Council, 28 February 2023

Recommendations in a [new report](#) on safer technical standards and usage rules for e-scooters in Europe include a 20 km/h factory-set speed limit, larger wheels, a ban on passengers and pavement riding, and a minimum age of 16.

[Bolt launches 'Reckless Rider' score to improve e-scooter safety](#)

Future Transport News, 1 March 2023

E-scooter operator Bolt has introduced a scoring system that evaluates each rider based on data collected from their scooter, such as detection of tandem riding, frequent abrupt braking and skidding, collisions and illegal parking.

[New York mayor announces plans to combat micromobility battery fires](#)

Future Transport News, 21 March 2023

An action plan has been launched by New York City to help prevent fires caused by lithium-ion batteries in micromobility vehicles and to promote their safe use.

[On-street testing of universal sound for shared e-scooters begins in London](#)

Intelligent Transport, 28 April 2023

On-street testing of acoustic alerts for rental e-scooters is taking place in London, in order to alert pedestrians and other road users of their approach.

[Low caps on e-scooter speeds encourage sidewalk riding](#)

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 16 May 2023

Mandating low travel speeds for e-scooters leads to more riders on pavements, creating conflict with pedestrians, according to a [new study](#) from the US.

[Threat to boot e-scooter companies if they can't keep them off footpaths](#)

The Age, 8 June 2023

E-scooter companies could face being banned if customers ride their scooters illegally on footpaths or leave them parked erratically, according to Melbourne's Lord Mayor.

[City of Darwin mulls putting e-scooters in bike lanes, expanding zone in review](#)

ABC News, 19 June 2023

The City of Darwin is considering moving e-scooter use from footpaths to bike paths and roads as part of a review.

[Boosting e-scooter safety for all Melburnians](#)

City of Melbourne, 11 August 2023

The City of Melbourne is trialling new camera technology on e-scooters that uses real-time footpath detection and audio alerts to crackdown on illegal footpath and tandem riding.

[Beam to deploy pedestrian shield on e-scooters in Victoria](#)

Future Transport News, 30 August 2023

A fleet of 150 e-scooters in the City of Melton will be fitted with Beam's Pedestrian Shield footpath detection and speed-limiting technology.

[Reckless riders on footpaths, cycleways may end up in court](#)

The Age, 12 October 2023

New laws to improve the safety of e-scooter and other Personal Mobility Devices (PMD) have been introduced into the Queensland Parliament, with new offences including careless riding on footpaths or bike paths, and post-crash obligations for all riders.

[Dott puts cameras on e-scooters in London](#)

Highways News, 26 October 2023

E-scooter operators are turning to AI cameras to try to understand rider behaviour, with the data helping to highlight infrastructure which is not working as planned or misunderstood by riders.

[Dott improves correct parking with AI technology](#)

AI technology will instantly review parking pictures submitted by Dott's riders at the end of their trip, based on criteria unique to the requirements of each city and agreed with city authorities. When incorrect parking is detected, riders will be notified with immediate guidance on how to park responsibly.

[When e-scooter riders know rules of the road, everyone is safer](#)

Forbes, 25 November 2023

A lack of awareness and understanding of e-scooter rules can lead to illegal and unsafe riding practices, according to a [new study](#) from the UK.

[Quality and safety regulations proposed for e-scooters](#)

University of Warwick, 5 May 2022

A new legal [framework](#) has been proposed by researchers at the University of Warwick, that lays out how future micromobility vehicles such as eScooters could be designed and operated in the UK.

[Targeting e-Scooter offenders could reverse hospital trends](#)

Queensland University of Technology, 20 June 2022

A campaign to target e-scooter offenders in Queensland could help reduce hospital emergency department presentations and increase e-mobility uptake, according to researchers.

[As e-scooter usage booms, new report identifies deficiencies impacting rider safety](#)

Governors Highway Safety Association, 6 October 2022

A new US [report](#) discusses e-scooter safety issues and solutions being implemented in different states amid a rapid growth in use of the devices.

[Bristol looks to be the UK's e-scooter success story](#)

City Monitor, 24 November 2022

Bristol is the most successful city in the UK to trial e-scooters due to its strong cycling culture and integration of e-scooters into its public transport network, according to recent research.

[Time to clean up Queensland's footpaths](#)

Queensland Government Ministerial Media Statement, 14 December 2022

The Queensland Government's new [e-Mobility Parking Plan](#) aims to improve the parking of e-scooters and other e-mobility devices to help reduce conflict with other road and path users.

[Back to top](#)

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