

## Media Release 24 July 2025

BREAKING: E-scooter chaos explodes – Queensland Parliament Committee told 'Time for Half-Measures Has Passed'.

Members from the Sunshine Coast Bicycle User Group (SCBUG) including Chair Craig Humphrey, Prue Oswin, Linda Bradby and Jonathon Rogers were invited to address the Parliamentary Committee in Caloundra.

During the presentation to the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into e-scooter and e-bike safety, the SCBUG members shared the latest e-scooter injury data released by Queensland's peak injury research body, Jamieson Trauma institute. Presentations to hospital emergency departments continue to escalate, with the latest figures showing an increase to approx. **150 per month** in 2025, up from 106 per month two years ago.

"This is a public health emergency unfolding in real time," SCBUG declared. "Every three days, another person arrives at our local emergency department with preventable injuries. Every month, Queenslanders require emergency medical treatment. "This must stop—now," stated Craig Humphrey, SCBUG Chair.

#### REGULATORY CHAOS FUELS CARNAGE

SCBUG slammed the 'dog's breakfast' of conflicting state regulations that are directly contributing to the injury toll.

"We have created a perfect storm of confusion that is putting lives at risk," the SCBUG representatives warned the Qld Parliamentarians. "Different regulations between states mean dangerous devices are flooding our market while enforcement becomes impossible."

#### **ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM FAILING**

Despite Queensland Police having powers to issue fines exceeding \$1,580 and three demerit points, the enforcement system is crumbling under the weight of the crisis.

"The tools exist but the resources don't," SCBUG stated. "Vulnerable path users, children, elderly residents, and people with disabilities—are being left defenseless against reckless riders and illegal, high-powered devices," noted Mr. Humphrey.

#### FIVE CRITICAL DEMANDS FOR ACTION

SCBUG issued five urgent demands to the parliamentary committee:

- 1. IMMEDIATE national uniform standards End the regulatory chaos killing coordination.
- 2. EMERGENCY enforcement funding Resource police and authorities to act now.
- **3. MASS education blitz** Launch immediate campaigns targeting families and schools.
- **4. INFRASTRUCTURE NOW** Build dedicated e-mobility lanes to separate conflicts.
- **5. BORDER CONTROLS** Stop illegal devices flooding Queensland markets.

### **QUEENSLAND MUST LEAD**

"This inquiry is Queensland's moment to lead Australia out of this crisis," SCBUG declared.

As apart of this country leading opportunities SCBUG presentation highlighted the **ScootScool education program**—developed on the Sunshine Coast and funded by the Australian Government—as proof that solutions exist if governments have the will to act.

Most importantly our CONGRATULATIONS to SCBUG member Prue Oswin and her partners have been recognized with the Innovation Award presented by LicenSys at the Australian Road Safety Awards held yesterday at Parliament House in Canberra.

The ScootScool program, title 'Safe Beyond the Gate' was honoured for its innovative approach to road safety education.

The ScootScool initiative represents a pioneering effort in e-scooter safety education, addressing the growing need for comprehensive safety programs as micro-mobility options become increasingly popular in Australian urban environments. As Director of Sidelines Traffic and an Active Transport Lead Engineer, Oswin has developed this program to extend safety education beyond traditional boundaries, helping to create safer roads for all users.

The LicenSys Innovation Award recognizes programs that demonstrate creative and effective solutions to contemporary road safety challenges, making this recognition particularly significant for advancing active transport safety initiatives across Australia.

"The alarming rise in e-scooter and e-bike injuries and the utter confusion surrounding usage and legal issues for the devices demand nothing less than urgent, comprehensive action," SCBUG concluded in their presentation. "The time for half-measures has passed. Our communities deserve action now," demanded Mr. Humphrey.



Craig Humphrey, Linda Bradby, Prue Oswin and Jonathon Rogers

# Media Contact: Craig Humphrey

Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group (SCBUG)

Email: <u>SCBUG@SCBTC.net</u>

Phone: 0409 605 890

https://www.scbtc.net/scbug/

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle User Group (SCBUG) represents cycling groups and community representatives from the Sunshine Coast region which spans the Local Government Areas of Sunshine Coast and Noosa to advocate and promote cycling as a viable and safe mode of transportation.