



SIMON KENNEDY

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR COOK



Dr Warren Mundy
Chair of the ADR Harmonisation Review 2024-25
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 594
Canberra, ACT 2601

24 January 2025

Dear Dr Mundy

Submission to the ADR Harmonisation Review 2024-25

I am writing to ask that you consider regulations that govern the importation of e-bikes as part of your review. In my electorate the national standards governing road vehicle safety are of particular importance following a surge in demand for e-bikes.

On the whole the innovation of e-bikes has been a positive. In my electorate, e-bikes are used by all demographic groups for a host of activities (i.e., commuting, traveling to school, exercising in the Royal National Park, etc.). They present a host of health, environmental, congestion and financial benefits.

However, many e-bikes currently in use in Cook do not meet road legal standards. Much anecdotal evidence suggests that some e-bike retailers are selling bikes with the ability to change their power rating and power cut off settings to essentially become motorbikes (i.e., electrically powered pedal cycles with continuous rated power above 500W and power assisted pedal cycles with maximum power above 200W). There are also many e-bikes on the road that can go at speeds above 25km/h without pedalling. This also suggests that riders of such vehicles are riding without insurance leaving them fully liable (or their parents if they are children) for any damage caused in accidents etc.

To address these issues at the Federal level I urge you to consider making two recommendations:

- Firstly, the Federal Government should review the 2021 removal of the AB category vehicle from the Motor Vehicle Standard Act (now Road Vehicle Standards Act) and subsequent modification to the ADR to include a clear definition of an e-bike in the RVSA and ADR.
- Secondly, the Federal Government should amend the ROVER system to require proof that an imported e-bike meets EPAC or Power assist pedal cycle regulations (as opposed to an Advisory Notice) in order to enable more effective policing of imported e-bikes.

I would be more than happy to follow up with the Review on any of these issues if that would be helpful. Otherwise I wish you well as you draft your final report.

With best wishes,

