



MEDIA RELEASE

'NO' TO REGISTRATION OF MOBILITY SCOOTERS

18 March 2014

The Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) has today recommended there be no compulsory registration of mobility scooters.

"After working through 75 submissions, two hearing days at Parliament House and additional hearings in Port Macquarie, Staysafe finds there is no compelling case for placing the costs of compulsory registration and insurance of these scooters onto the elderly or disabled," said the Chair of the Staysafe Committee, Mr Greg Aplin MP.

"What we are recommending, however, is that these scooters are not sold without appropriate training in their safe use and assessment of the user's abilities. Assessment and training must fall on retailers, under a scheme where they can become accredited.

"Some retailers already fulfil these roles, but we need a systemic approach to ensuring the safety of mobility scooter users and pedestrians," said Mr Aplin.

A further recommendation from Staysafe is that local councils must do more to facilitate the growing use of mobility scooters.

"At present Councils might require the construction of a wider footpath outside a new retirement village, but a short distance away the path turns into stairs. It's time to take the longer view," said Mr Aplin.

Staysafe has completed an Inquiry into the increasing use of motorised vehicles not currently registered on NSW roads and has tabled its Report and recommendations today.

"The design and capacity of the road system is being tested with additional demand driven by these new categories of vehicles, thereby increasing the risks of injury and death on the roads. The growth in use of these vehicles, which include mobility devices, electric bicycles, quad bikes and Segways, is a response to a demand for transport alternatives, greater access to community based activities by disabled and older citizens and expanded recreational options."

The Committee has recommended ways to increase public awareness of the use of these vehicles, to improve data collection, to ensure better skills and competency training for operators and to involve local government in monitoring their use.

A copy of the report can be accessed on the Committee's website at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe>.

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