

**Submission
No 55**

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

Organisation: Port Macquarie Hastings Council
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Position: Road Safety Officer
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RE: INQUIRY INTO NON REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

In light of the aging population, the prevalence of motorised wheelchairs and motorised scooters will increase, it is important to recognise the impact of this fact on the wider community.

The issues are two-fold, the chance of pedestrians being injured by a motorised scooter and scooter users being injured when travelling on the roadway.

In consultation with the community through the Local Government Road Safety Program it has become apparent that the general community does not understand the rules and regulations relating to motorised scooters, especially the fact that these scooters are classed as a pedestrian. There are questions over the regulations for example the 10 km per hour limit and also the maximum size of the unit. It is pertinent that the committee recognises these facts and address the problems associated with motorised scooters.

There are parallels with bicycles in that there are minimal regulations and these regulations are difficult to enforce.

In terms of crash statistics, motorised scooters are classed as pedestrian accidents and as such there needs to be a more distinct category under pedestrian accidents for those accidents that involve motorised scooters.

In regard to Local Government, Councils do not have the infrastructure in place to enable scooters to travel on footpaths at all times. Most footpath networks are fragmented forcing scooters to travel on the road. This is a problem in particular in regions with large aged population for example the north coast of NSW.

In summary

- there needs to be greater regulation of motorised scooters as the numbers will certainly increase over the next few years,
- the road rules will need to be enforced
- assistance is needed for local government to develop a network of user friendly motorised scooter and pedestrian paths.
- it would be advantageous if a campaign was implemented to increase the awareness of the rules and regulations concerning motorised scooters and the like.

Yours sincerely

Nick Gainsford