

**Submission  
No 56**

## **NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES**

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**Position:** Manager Community and Cultural Services  
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Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee,

Please accept this submission regarding the use of non-registered motorised vehicles.

Like many other Local Government Areas, Nambucca Shire has an aged and ageing population and the use of non-registered motorised vehicles is increasing. The community concern about their use is also growing and has been for some time. At the local level, Nambucca Shire Council has responded to this by proactively promoting safe usage of these vehicles through workshops, presentations and distribution of various publications. In addition to this, information regarding recent other enquiries into the use of motorised scooters (ie NRMA and ACCC in the past year or so) has been actively promoted for community input.

Notwithstanding those actions, a clear message to the Joint Standing Committee is that more needs to be done at a higher level.

#### The Access Committee View

Nambucca Shire Council Access Committee which advocates on behalf of older people and people with disabilities, resolved at its 23 April 2013 meeting, to make a submission into the Joint Standing Committee enquiry and I put forward the following points on their behalf:

1. There is a need for users of non-registered motorised vehicles to have insurance along the lines of 3rd Party protection.
2. Vehicles need a better braking mechanism to reduce vehicle/pedestrian collisions. Whilst "hands-off = stop", this is not immediate and the vehicle continues to travel for some distance.
3. There is a need for a capacity test of some type. Most of the faculties required to drive a motor vehicle are required to drive a scooter, especially adequate vision, ability to look around you and ability to respond quickly are all essential for safe scooting.

#### The Need for Adequate Infrastructure

From a broader Council perspective, the key safety issue for people using non-registered motorised vehicles is safe path of travel via an adequate footpath network. The daunting task of asset maintenance for Local Government is well documented. At the Nambucca Shire level, it is rare that a new footpath is constructed due to competing needs in other areas of Council and the priority of maintaining existing pathways. Getting scooters and the like off roadways is imperative to safety. Council has a Pedestrian Access Management Plan (PAMP) which identifies requirements for new footpaths and where in-fill would form a continuous off-road path of travel, however Council's ability to fund the PAMP is another story. Programs such as the recent funding under NSW Family and Community Services (in conjunction with LGSA) - Aged Friendly Communities Grant provide much needed capital for on-ground projects. At the local level, these difference these projects make cannot be under-estimated.

Your faithfully

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