

**Submission
No 35**

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

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With reference to the use of unregistered motor vehicles on public roads I would like to make this submission. It is in connection with the used of motorized bicycles. Currently, a limit of 200watts is placed on the power rating and a speed of 35 kms per hour. In my view this rating is not ideal in that assessment of these limits seems fairly ambiguous in the light of modern road conditions and expectancy of road users. Let's consider these two separately. Firstly, a speed of 35kms per hour is somewhat inadequate when one considers that the speed limit for pedal cyclists is 45kms per hour. I suggest therefore that as the above said vehicles are mainly designed to be used as commuter vehicles in towns, that a speed limit of 55kms per hour would be reasonable to enable smooth interaction with other road users. Now to the second point. To enable easy policing, instead of setting a limit of 200 watts a more realistic figure might be the cubic centimeters of a petrol engine rather than the wattage which depends on several factors such as load and terrain to ascertain. Most of the imported engines are around 50cc. with the 80 cc really should be rated at 57cc given the dimensions of stroke and diameter. So the larger engines really have a small margin of increased power as against the 50cc ones. A few things I would suggest however regarding the use of these vehicles. Firstly, they should be operated on a public road only if the user is of the age to be eligible for a motor cycle licence. i.e. over 16 years of age. All road rules should be observed as pertaining to motor cycles. Mirrors and indicators should be mandatory. Engines should only be fitted to roadworthy bicycles, a schedule for this could be formulated and published through public agencies as an advisory pamphlet. In conclusion let me say that Having the possession of a motorized bike myself, I can see the benefits. Being an older person and living as I do in Tasmania with the challenging terrain it presents to a user of a push bike. In towns the use of these would ease traffic problems , such as pollution and parking. Also petrol usage would be reduced too.