

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

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Mr Greg Aplin MP
Chair
Staysafe Committee
Parliament of NSW
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Dear Mr Aplin

Inquiry into non-registered motorised vehicles

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the NSW Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe Committee) inquiry into non-registered motorised vehicles.

The FCAI is the peak industry organisation representing vehicle manufacturers and importers of passenger cars, light commercial vehicles and motor cycles in Australia. As such the FCAI's main interest in this review is the use of non-registered motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Use of non-registered motorcycles:

The FCAI considers that a better option than continued use of non-registered motorcycles is to have a regime of restricted registration for off-road recreational use of motorcycles. A restricted registration regime provides significant benefits to the community such as setting and enforcing minimum rider training (via licensing) and vehicle standards. A restricted registration scheme would eliminate non-licensed, non-registered, noisy and unsuitable motorcycles from many off-road, but public access tracks such as in State Forests.

NSW already has a limited form of restricted registration for recreational use of motorcycles; however, the FCAI considers that this should be expanded to align with the Victorian Recreational Registration system. While I recognise that the current scheme is the result of considerable effort and involved considerable resources, it is very limited, and as such does not address the needs of recreational off-road motorcycle riders.

Without an expansion of recreational registration for motorcycles in NSW, many motorcyclists will continue to operate outside the current regulatory regime with implications for safe and responsible use of off-road motorcycles.

I have attached a summary of the main points of the Victorian motorcycle Recreational Registration system for your information.

Use of non-registered ATVs

The FCAI acknowledges that there is community concern over the safe use of ATVs when used in both recreational and farming environments. The industry takes its safety responsibilities very seriously and has continually promoted the safe and responsible use of ATVs by endorsing safety interventions with known positive benefits.

The best way to make ATV use safer is to raise the awareness of riders that a combination of factors will improve the safe use of ATVs. All ATV users, including farmers must be trained, wear a helmet while operating the ATV, not carry more than the prescribed number of passengers, not allow children on adult size ATVs, use the appropriate vehicle for the task and not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs whilst operating the vehicle.

The ATV industry is continuing to raise awareness of these safety interventions at the point of sale with ATV buyers and public information such as our ATV Safety website; <http://www.atvsafety.com.au/>. This website contains a comprehensive list of training available for ATV riders provided by ATV brands specialist rider training centres, TAFE's and other highly recognised driver and rider training organisations.

The FCAI would also recommend consideration of a restricted registration scheme for recreational use of ATVs. The benefits of the scheme for recreational registration of ATVs are similar to that for motorcycles including setting and enforcing minimum rider training (via licensing) and vehicle standards.

The FCAI recognises that NSW has a recreational registration scheme for ATVs, but this scheme is very restrictive and allows use of these vehicles only on Stockton Beach. The FCAI recommends consideration of a recreational registration similar to recreational registration for motorcycles which requires riders to hold a motorcycle license (i.e. be appropriately trained), wear protective clothing and have a vehicle that meets relevant standards.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact the FCAI's Technical Director, Mr James Hurnall

Yours sincerely

Tony Weber
Chief Executive

Attachment 1 – Summary of Vicroads Recreational Registration for Motorcycles

Recreation registration allows motorcycle riding in certain areas without obtaining full registration.

Eligibility

Any two-wheeled motorcycle can be registered as a recreation vehicle.

To operate a recreation vehicle the rider must be at least 18 years of age and must also hold a motorcycle learner permit or license to ride on a road.

Minimum construction requirements;

All recreation motorcycles must have:

- a rear vision mirror fitted to the right hand side,
- brakes fitted to both wheels, capable of working independently if one brake fails,
- one head lamp,
- one rear red tail lamp,
- one rear red brake lamp,
- one rear white number plate lamp,
- a silencing device which restricts the noise level to 94 dBA or less,
- an appropriate horn or warning device wired into the motorcycle's electrical system, and
- a chain guard that protects the rider from the front chain sprocket.

IMPORTANT

- All lighting used must be of a type intended for use on motorcycles.
- A 'total loss system'* power source for the lighting is not acceptable.
- If a battery is fitted to the motorcycle, an integrated charging system, such as an alternator, is required.
- Magneto driving lights are acceptable if a battery is not fitted.

* A 'Total loss' system is one where the lights are powered in such a way that continuous power to the lights is not possible. For example, lights powered by batteries are not continuously rechargeable and can therefore run down. This is a safety measure to ensure that lighting is available to the rider when it is required.

Conditions

There are a number of conditions applying to operating a motorcycle under recreational registration.

- Recreation motorcycles are only permitted to be operated on roads (except declared freeways and arterial roads, including roads formerly designated as forest roads, under the Road Management Act 2004) that are:
 - located outside "built up areas" as defined by speed zones of less than 100 km/h, or
 - those areas that are not a road and are solely for the training and assessment of a holder of a motorcycle learner permit by an organisation approved by VicRoads for that purpose
- The vehicle must not carry any load or a person other than the rider.
- The rider must wear a protective helmet of the type approved under the Road Rules.