

**Submission
No 57**

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

Organisation: Eurobodalla Shire Council
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The Chair
Staysafe Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
via email: staysafe@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Aplin, MP

Submission – Inquiry into Non-Registered Motorised Vehicles

On behalf of Eurobodalla Shire Council and its community, I wish to lodge a submission to your inquiry into non-registered motorised vehicles, in particular motorised wheelchairs.

The Eurobodalla local government area is located on the south coast of New South Wales. Our population in 2011 was 35,741 and over 50% of our population is over 50 years of age. 9.4% of our population is aged 60-64 years compared to the State's percentage of 5.6%. As at March 2012, 2,393 Mobility Parking Scheme Permits were recorded as being issued in the Eurobodalla. Our population will continue to age and we attract retirees who relocate permanently to the Shire.

Our area is a mix of urban and rural with limited footpaths in residential areas but we have a decent network of shared paths in urban areas that is gradually expanding when infrastructure funding allows.

After consultation with Council's Community Care staff and from observation and feedback from Scooter workshops that I have conducted, the following is supplied:

1. There is a dire need for all intended users of motorised wheelchairs to be assessed by an occupational therapist. This assessment should also include any risks associated with the use of prescription drugs and the ability of the user to operate the device safely. This should be mandatory. Retailers of motorised wheelchairs have sold devices to vision impaired people. Some users have physical impairments that increase the risk of collisions.

2. Some form of user competency and skill development course should also be mandatory. Some users have never driven a motor vehicle (or not for many years) and therefore, are not familiar with the process of scanning for hazards, crossing roads and the interaction with other road users (as previously stated our area has limited footpaths).
3. The Eurobodalla does not keep a register of motorised wheelchair users. We do not believe that it should be a responsibility of local government. However, a register would be beneficial for infrastructure planning purposes; keeping a record of the devices maintenance schedules; identifying the user and when the user was assessed by an occupational therapist and any follow-up assessments; and recording collision/accident details.
4. Users of motorised wheelchairs should also be prohibited from consuming alcohol when operating the device.

Trusting the above information will be useful to your inquiry. [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Karen Sydenham
Road Safety Officer