

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 24/04/2013

Partially Confidential

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Staysafe (Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety)
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Chairperson,

RE: Submission to consider the future of unregistered motorised transport in Australia

My submission specifically relates to my use of a motorised bicycle in my local area (Batemans Bay, NSW 2536).

I am at retirement age and was diagnosed as having Parkinsons disease last year. My doctor has certified that my current medical condition permits me to drive my car without any restrictions. However, unless I maintain my present medication and my strict exercise routine my condition will deteriorate.

Riding my pushbike is an important part of my exercise routine but if my future condition declines it will make it more and more difficult for me to ride a non-motorised bicycle.

Our local council (Eurobodalla), to their credit, have made provision for bicycle riders by making/upgrading paths in and around the town. This encourages people, not only those with a disability &/or who cannot drive a car, to ride bikes.

In the future if/as my Parkinsons worsens, I will have to do without my car. It is then that I will find it difficult to afford other forms of transport, particularly taxis, to carry out necessary daily activities. Lack of public transport in my area exacerbates the situation.

It is my opinion that motorised pushbikes reduce traffic congestion by getting cars off the road. Furthermore, I believe that motorised pushbikes reduce pollution. How could one deny that a tiny (500 watt) motorised bicycle would produce far less pollution than a car travelling the same distance. For this reason I consider current 200 watt power restrictions should be increased.

In my opinion, rather than restricting motor power, it would be better to enforce speed limits on motorised pushbikes according to the location of the bicycle path. (Pushbikes without power are allowed to travel at 45KPH)

Finally, I have concerns about the insurance implications of injuries and fatalities sustained and caused by motorised pushbikes and I am in favour of a small annual insurance fee to provide a pool of funds to compensate for pushbike accident or injury.

Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]