

NON-REGISTERED MOTORISED VEHICLES

Organisation: Country Women's Association of NSW

Date Received: 2/04/2013

To Staysafe (Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety),

In 2003 the Country Women's Association of NSW passed the following motion at its Annual Conference:

"That the Country Women's Association of NSW request the NSW Minister for Transport and the Minister for Ageing and Disability to -

- a) consider making it compulsory for all motorised scooters/gophers to be fitted with a visual aid, e.g. brightly coloured flag;
- b) consider setting parameters which would govern the safe use of motorised scooters/gophers."

We are now writing to outline our concern about the safety to both the general public and the users of mobility scooters due to the fact that there is very little control over the use of these machines.

Our concerns centre on our ageing population and the apparent increased use of mobility scooters. With this increased use problems occur such as:

- Physical issues such as hand strength and movement and the ability to turn your head
- The ability to sit for periods of time and the balance required due to ground conditions
- Sound vision and hearing
- The ability to concentrate for the entire period of the journey
- Knowledge of safety procedures.

Also, it is suggested that in future literature issues such as driving under the influence of alcohol and/or medication, visibility and the suggestion to wear a helmet, could be covered.

We understand that in Queensland a mobility scooter must be registered and a licence held by the "rider/driver". We believe this initiative should be copied in NSW which would make it safer for all members of the community – both the user and those dealing with the scooters.

The CWA hopes that the NSW Government will consider setting further parameters which would govern the safer use of mobility scooters in order to address this increasing problem.

Yours Sincerely,

Donna Wilkins
Executive Officer