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Electric Powered Two Wheeled Vehicles Policy position and FAQ June 2022

Position Statement:

Electric Powered Two Wheeled Vehicles:

SUMMARY:

ADR Compliant electric motorcycles are still motorcycles, and their riders face the same road use and safety issues as traditional motorcyclists.

The market is cluttered with non-compliant and illegal electric PTW in widespread use, most of which appear as light motorcycles, but the policing of this is complex and difficult. This is a regulatory problem.

It is important that data and any statistics from this group is not classed as 'motorcycle'.

DETAILS:

Currently there are six classes of battery electric powered two wheelers in Victoria;

- Electric motorcycles, which are registered through Vicroads as motorcycles.
- Electric assisted pedal cycles with a power below 250W and maximum top speed of 25kph under electric power, compliant with current road rules which do not require registration.
- Electric cycles of greater power and/or top speed, whether fitted with pedals or not. These are illegal to use on public roads in Victoria.
- Electric scooters that are part of the current Victorian trial with a maximum top speed of 20kph, compliant with current road rules and which do not require registration
- Privately owned electric scooters with a power not exceeding 200W and top speed maximum 10kph, which are in the same class as human powered scooters and do not require registration
- Privately owned electric scooters with a power greater than 200W and/or a top speed greater than 10kph. These are illegal to use on public roads in Victoria.

An internet search of '500W ebike Victoria' will produce a long list of retailers selling ebikes that are illegal to use on public roads in Victoria. Data sheets all show 250W, however, implying compliance, but model designation numbers suggest otherwise, and relative performance descriptions support that suggestion.

VMC Policy Position: Electric PTW

Other retailers are offering up to 1800W devices, under the qualification that 'they may not be legally used on public roads' or similar wording.

Victorian Government encouragement for electric cars currently is not extended to electric motorcycles.

The Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) subsidy offered by the Victorian Government defines an eligible ZEV model as one that is a passenger car. This is another example of car-centric thinking. Lobbying of government to change this should fall with the retailers of electric motorcycles and is not a task for the VMC.

References:

https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/521312/Zero-Emission-Vehicle-ZEV-Roadmap-FINAL.pdf

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: XXX

A: xxx