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AMC Position Statement – Pocket Bikes

'Pocket Bikes' are miniature bikes usually in the style of replicas of full scale motorcycles. They are generally classified as 'motorised toys'.

Priority: Medium

Where are we now:-

Most of these machines are cheap to purchase, not well manufactured and cannot be registered as they do not comply with the relevant Australian Design Rules for motorcycles.

Usually purchased with little thought of where they can be ridden legally or what backup is available in the way of service or spare parts.

Most of these machines are sold by individuals or small businesses that have little expertise or knowledge of the motorcycle industry.

When they are ridden illegally on the road they can be a nuisance due to excessive noise and non compliance to road rules. This does nothing to improve the image of motorcycling.

Under the road rules, 'a road' is from the property boundary on one side, to the property boundary on the other. It includes footpaths, nature strips and median strips. It also includes car parks open to the public. Therefore these machines cannot be legally ridden on the footpath or in car parks.

If riding a pocket bike illegally comes to the attention of the police, it can be quite expensive if the rider is charged with riding unlicensed, unregistered, uninsured and not complying with the road rules.

As many of these machines are not well manufactured, breakage of vital components such as brakes, frame, suspension, wheels and tyres is a real possibility. Severe injury can result.

While these machines are classified as a 'motorised toys', because they resemble a motorcycle, there is the possibility that injuries and fatalities can be incorrectly recorded under the 'motorcycle' classification.

In Western Australia it is necessary to have a motor vehicle dealer's licence to sell motorcycles. Motorcycles are defined as self-propelled two wheeled vehicles. Many of the concerns associated with pocket bikes in WA have been reduced as a result of this requirement.

Where do we want to be:-

For purchasers of pocket bikes to be better informed regarding:-

- where these machines can be ridden legally
- the consequences of illegally riding these machines on the road.
- the availability or otherwise of spares and service

For all accident statistics relating to Pocket Bikes to be formally recorded as 'Motorised Toys' not 'Motorcycles'.

How to get there:-

AMC to encourage the state based rider organisations to lobby their road authorities to record crash statistics for Pocket Bikes as Motorised Toys and not as Motorcycles.

Promote where these machines can be ridden legally.

Make available to potential purchasers information regarding:

- where these machines can be ridden legally
- the consequences of illegally riding these machines on the road.
- the availability or otherwise of spares and service

Investigate the requirements for a motor vehicle dealer's licence to sell pocket bikes, as a means of reducing the illegal use of pocket bikes.