

Dear Secretary,

My wife and I wish to add a submission to the inquiry into the "Use of Mobility Scooters"

We are a couple of elderly pedestrians who are forced, through necessity, to walk many kilometres along the streets of Port Macquarie.

We are, more and more often, confronted with speeding mobility scooters, who have no responsibility towards other footpath users.

Following are a list of problems we are encountering each day as we walk about the city and some solutions as we see them

Problems

1. Travelling well above the appropriate speed
2. Travelling out of shops and gateways too fast (elderly people, or children, are vulnerable to being hurt, injured or killed)
3. Visually they are hard to see, especially at night
4. Unable to identify offenders
5. More than one person riding a machine designed for a single operator
6. Bikeriders are forced to wear helmets, why not mobility scooter riders?
7. Proof of disability should be shown prior to purchase
8. Not knowing the road rules

Solutions

1. Fit speed limiters to all mobile scooters at 5 KPH (or normal walking pace). Two (2) speeds, one for internal use (i.e. shopping centres) and one for open footpaths
2. Make training and education part of the responsibility of the mobility scooter retailer at the time of purchase
3. Paint the mobility scooter with high visual colours, fitting of lights, reflective triangle and flags/poles be mandatory.
4. Number plates be fitted to all mobility scooters to allow identification of offending persons using the machine
5. Police be advised to intercept individuals who "double up" on these machines
6. Make helmets compulsory for scooter operators
7. Each rider be made to take out compulsory third party insurance to cover any injuries they may inflict on other pedestrians
8. Operator/owner should be registered to operate on the road including knowledge of the road rules.

It is common knowledge that individuals who are banned from driving a motor car by the courts, turn to the use of these mobility scooters for quick, easy, transport

Thank you for the chance to submit our comments
Judy and Ray Taylor

