



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**  
Chair of the Road Safety Council  
Friday, 10 December 2004

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## **A CHRISTMAS PRESENT THAT COULD SPELL TROUBLE**

Tasmanian parents have been warned to think twice before buying children the latest motorised mini-motorcycles, and billycarts, motorised scooters and skateboards for Christmas.

Chairman of the Road Safety Council Mr Doug Parkinson said today that all such devices could not legally be used on roads and areas such as footpaths, nature strips and bicycle paths – despite the fact that they could be legally sold.

They can only be legally used on private property.

“The presence of these devices poses a potential safety risk to both riders and other road users.

“Riders frequently do not wear helmets, are sometimes difficult for motorists and pedestrians to see because they are low to the ground, and motorised billycarts in particular can reach speeds as high as 55 km/h.

“They are often unstable and not properly equipped with appropriate lights or brakes.

“There have already been complaints about noise and also crashes with and property damage to cars,” Mr Parkinson said said.

He warned that penalties for use of an unregistered vehicle of this type on a road or road-related area would be at least \$300 on-the-spot and could be up to \$2000. Parents who allow their children to use these types of vehicles can be fined.

“I urge all parents thinking of buying such items for their children to consider the implications of their purchase carefully,” Mr Parkinson said said.

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**Further information:** Tasmanian Government Communications Unit

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