



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Member for Wellington

Sunday, 18 December 2005

TAKE CARE WHEN CHOOSING CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Tasmanian parents have again been warned to think twice before buying children the latest motorised versions of billycarts, scooters, skateboards quad bikes and mini-motorcycles.

Chairman of the Road Safety Council Doug Parkinson outlined the important legal and safety issues that parents need to consider. "I urge all parents thinking of buying such items for their children to carefully consider the implications of their purchase," Mr Parkinson said.

"Motorised mini-motorcycles quad bikes, billycarts, and motorised scooters and skateboards can't be legally used on roads, or on road related areas like footpaths, nature strips or bicycle paths – despite the fact that they can legally be sold."

Mr Parkinson said use of these motorised devices on roads would potentially create safety issues for both riders and other road users. "Riders frequently don't 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," Mr Parkinson said.

Mr Parkinson said the devices are often unstable and not properly equipped with appropriate lights or brakes.

"Consequently, the devices are unlikely to qualify for registration or insurance of a motor vehicle and parents who allow their children to use them can be fined.

"Penalties for use of an unregistered vehicle such as these on a road or road-related area, would be at least \$300 on-the-spot and could be up to \$2,000," Mr Parkinson said.

Mr Parkinson advised that further information can be obtained from the Transport Enquiry Service on 1300 851 225.

Further information: Tony Scott 6336 2443 or 0417 051 255

