

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH
HON MICHAEL FERGUSON MP
Traffic Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2021

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Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

The purpose of the *Traffic Amendment (Personal Mobility Devices) Bill 2021* is to deliver on the Government's commitment to permit Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) on footpaths, shared paths, bicycle paths and some roads.

Personal mobility devices are small electric devices designed to transport a person over small to medium distances such as e-scooters, e-skateboards and self-balancing hoverboards.

Prior to the 2021 State election, the Government made a commitment to identify the regulatory amendments required to safely permit PMDs on certain types of public infrastructure within 60 days of being re-elected.

The Government subsequently committed to implementing the necessary amendments by early December 2021.

This Bill is the first in a package of regulatory amendments required to deliver on that commitment.

Amendments to subordinate legislation are being progressed to regulate the use of PMDs according to a comprehensive policy framework. This framework is largely based on amendments to the model Australian Road Rules agreed by Infrastructure and Transport Ministers in May 2021. Minor amendments have been adopted to ensure that the framework is fit for purpose in Tasmania.

PMDs provide an alternative transport option that is cost-effective, low-pollution, and can be part of the solution to traffic congestion.

Currently, motorised scooters with a power output of more than 200 watts are categorised as unregistered motor vehicles and are not permitted on public roads.

The package of regulatory amendments will allow PMDs to be used by people who are at least 16 years old. PMD users will be required to comply with all applicable Road Rules and to ride with due care and attention for other road users. Under the framework, they:

- must wear a helmet
- must not travel past a sign prohibiting PMDs
- must not use a mobile phone while in or on the device
- must not exceed specified speed limits
- must not carry another person or an animal
- must not ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Both privately owned and commercial hire and ride devices will be permitted under the framework.

This Bill amends the *Traffic Act 1925* to empower road managers, such as local councils, to

authorise PMDs to access roads that they manage in addition to local roads that will be permitted under regulations.

The Bill also provides police with the power to seize and temporarily detain a PMD if they reasonably believe that it is being used contrary to the Road Rules, similarly to existing powers for wheeled recreational devices such as skateboards and scooters.

The Government recognises the importance of safety of PMD users and other road users and has committed to reviewing the regulatory framework, including the additional provision for road managers, in 12 months to identify any emerging safety implications.

Mr Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.