



Power Assisted Bicycles, Wheeled Recreational Devices and Electric Personal Transporters

Staying safe on the road is important for all road users and with the increased popularity and use of power assisted bicycles and motorised wheeled recreational devices, it is important to know the road rules.

What is a power assisted bicycle?

A power assisted bicycle is a pedal cycle with an electric motor attached to assist the rider. The attached electric motor may provide assistance but the pedals must be the main means of propulsion. In South Australia, there are two types of power assisted bicycles that can be legally used on roads:

- a bicycle with up to 200 Watts of power that is controlled by a throttle or an accelerator
- a bicycle with up to 250 Watts of continuous power that is controlled using pedals and meets the definition of a pedelec.

What is a pedelec?

For a pedelec to be legal for use on South Australian roads, it must comply with the European Committee for Standardization EN 15194:2009 or EN 15194:2009+A1:2011 Cycles – Electrically power assisted cycles – EPAC Bicycle ('EN15194'). This means it must:

- be certified by the manufacturer and labelled as complying with EN 15194. The label must have:
 - the manufacturer's name
 - the motor's cut off speed in km/h
 - it's electric motor maximum continuous rated power in watts
- the motor must be electric
- the maximum continuous power output of the motor cannot exceed 250 Watts
- the rider must pedal to access the power (the motor may operate without pedaling up to a speed of 6 km/h)
- the power must cut out when the pedelec reaches 25 km/h or sooner if the operator stops pedaling.
- having a working warning device within easy reach
- not riding beside another bicycle rider more than 1.5 metres apart and not riding more than two abreast
- obeying road signs, road markings and speed limits
- not using a mobile phone
- not riding under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/or a drug as to be incapable of exercising effective control.

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Rules for power assisted bicycles

Riders do not require a driver's licence, motor vehicle registration or compulsory third party insurance; however riders are bound by the same rules as bicycles including but not limited to:

- wearing an approved helmet that is securely fitted
- having effective brakes
- having a working warning device
- at night and in hazardous weather having a white light that is clearly visible at least 200 metres from the front; a red light that is clearly visible at least 200 metres from the rear, and a red reflector that is clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear.

What is a wheeled recreational device?

A wheeled recreational device means a wheeled device, built to transport a person, propelled by human power or gravity, and ordinarily used for recreation or play. Skateboards, inline skates, roller skates, foot scooters and unicycles are wheeled recreational devices. You must wear a helmet when using them. They can be used on footpaths and in some circumstances on roads. You must not use a wheeled recreational device:

- on roads with a dividing line or median strip
- on roads which the speed limit is greater than 50km/h
- on a one way road with more than one marked lane
- on roads where they are prohibited
- on a road at night

What are electric personal transporters?

An electric personal transporter is propelled with an electric motor and includes:

- self-balancing two wheeled boards (commonly referred to as hover boards/self balancing scooters)
- segways
- self-balancing unicycles
- electric skateboards
- electric scooters.

Privately owned electric personal transporters cannot be used on roads or on road related areas. They can only be used on private property.

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E-scooter trials

An e-scooter is a two wheeled device powered by an electric motor and battery pack. Two e-scooter trials have been approved in South Australia. The only e-scooters allowed to be used are those operating subject to a permit issued for these trials. You can only ride a privately owned e-scooter on private property. You do not need a driver's licence or learner's permit to participate in these trials. Riders:

- must be at least 18 years old
- must wear an approved bike helmet that is securely fitted
- ride on footpaths and shared paths unless otherwise prohibited
- may ride on a road only when crossing or to avoid an obstruction for up to 50 metres
- must not ride in a bike lane or bus lane
- must use a warning (device or verbal) to avert danger
- must have proper control at all times and ride with due care and reasonable consideration for other persons
- must use a flashing or steady white light at the front and a flashing red light and reflector at the back of the device when riding at night or in hazardous conditions
- must not exceed 15 km/h or a lesser speed if required in the circumstances to stop safely and avert danger
- must not ride abreast
- must not carry passengers
- must not have a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 grams or more or the presence of a prescribed drug in their blood or saliva
- must not use a mobile phone.

SA police strongly recommend that when operating a power assisted bicycle or a wheeled recreational device that you wear bright coloured clothing so you can be easily seen.

The SA Police Road Safety Centre is a leader in road safety education, playing a vital role in reducing road trauma through enhancing the awareness, knowledge and skills of all road users through lifelong learning. For more information on our range of programs visit www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety or use the QR code below to take you straight to SAPOL's road safety page. To book a FREE road safety session email SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au

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