

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Personal mobility device use in the ACT

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From 1 July 2017, a personal mobility device (e.g. Segway or segway-type device) can be used in the ACT. There are strict rules and regulations applying to the use of these devices. Any breach of these rules and regulations may result in an infringement notice being issued by a police officer, with a penalty attached.

What is a personal mobility device?

For the purpose of the ACT road transport law, a personal mobility device is a vehicle:

- designed to be self-balancing
- is propelled by an electric motor
- has 2 wheels that operate on a single axis
- has a platform between the wheels for a person to stand on
and
- has handles mounted on an upright post.

Rules applying to the use of these devices

When using these devices, you must:

- wear an approved bicycle helmet that is securely fitted and fastened
- have a working warning device such as a bell or horn fitted to the device, to warn others of your approach
- when travelling at night or in hazardous weather conditions with reduced visibility, display on yourself or the device:
 - a flashing or steady white light that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the front
 - a flashing or steady red light that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the rear
and
 - a red reflector clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the device when light is projected onto it by a vehicle's head lights on low-beam.
- keep to the left when travelling along a footpath or shared path unless impracticable to do so
and
- give way to other pedestrians on footpaths and shared paths.

Where can I use a personal mobility device?

You can use the device on road related areas such as:

- footpaths
- shared paths
and
- nature strips.

However, the device *cannot* be used to travel along a road (including the shoulder of the road) or an on-road bicycle lane unless:

- there is no footpath, shared path or nature strip adjacent to that road or on-road bicycle lane
or
- the footpath, shared path or nature strip is obstructed or impassable.

Travelling across a road on a crossing

You can travel across a road on a children"s crossing, marked foot crossing and pedestrian crossing while on your device as long as you:

- approach the crossing no faster than 10 km/h;
- check for any approaching traffic; and
- be prepared to stop.

This will allow motorists to see and respond to you on your device before you cross.

When on the crossing, you must:

- not travel faster than 10 km/h
- keep to the left of the crossing
- give way to other pedestrians on the crossing
and
- not travel along side more than one other personal mobility device user.

Additional advice

As a user of such a device, you are encouraged to:

- abide by the manufacturer"s recommendations on age, height and weight of a user
- abide by the manufacturer"s recommendations about how to operate the device
- learn how to use the device in a safe environment
- be alert and courteous to other pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to avoid danger and inconvenience
- be predictable with all your actions
- take extra care and slow down around vulnerable people and in high pedestrian areas such as footpaths surrounding shopping centres, senior citizens" homes, retirement villages, nursing homes, child care centres, schools, premises for people with disabilities and hospitals
- travel at speeds which are safe and within your ability

and

- wear appropriate, brightly coloured, protective clothing.

In the case of children using a device - parents and guardians are encouraged to abide by the manufacturers' recommendations about age, height and weight for users.