

Additional Opinion on Owned PMDs and Safety Features

Good afternoon,

The "Sydney Electric Skateboarders - ESK8 Sydney" Facebook group has 1000 members who agree that this report is a thorough analysis of the safe and responsible use of PMDs and suitable recommended legislation updates. However, not all of them have the time to read through the NTC report and provide feedback.

You will have received a shared submission on behalf of the group by Shannon Murdoch to express our views on the public use of PMDs, which also highlights the purpose and duration of each person's use. This email is to show my support for this shared submission, and that this view is shared by the Electric Skateboard and OneWheel communities across Australia.

As an owner of a Onewheel (self-balancing PMD), I'd also like to take the time to highlight that OneWheels are sturdy devices, which are manufactured with high quality in the United States. Each Onewheel comes with safety features, one of which is the Pushback Feature. This safety mechanism prevents accidents at high speeds by preventing the front of the board from tipping too far. Safety features such as this are common across all PMDs and help to reduce their overall safety risk.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight that **owned** PMDs are ridden with increased responsibility when compared to **hired** PMDs. A hired PMD (Lime Electric Scooter) is available for any rider; people who are drunk, people who have loose footwear, young kids. These riders will ride recklessly and disrespect the PMD. In comparison, owning a PMD encourages taking care of yourself and the PMD, wearing safety gear and learning how to ride responsibly. Hence, I believe that it is necessary to consider this difference between owned and hired PMDs.

In conclusion, the current laws for PMDs are unclear (especially in NSW) and have lead to multiple members of the Australian PMD community are being fined as they were unaware of current legislation. PMDs are revolutionary and life changing, not only for the individual rider but also for the environment. They are efficient, quiet, have zero emissions, and encourage people both young and old to spend more time outdoors exploring. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions!

Regards,
James Tai.