

Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and
Business Affairs

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WARNING - Mongoose motorcycle not for road use

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) and South Australia Police (SAPOL) are warning consumers to think carefully before buying the Mongoose - Extreme Gear bike. The motorcycle cannot legally be ridden on public roads, on the footpath or in any public place.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said, "This is not the bike to buy if you want to ride on the road or public property."

The Mongoose Extreme Gear motorcycle comes in two models, the 50cc or 125cc. The bike can travel between 60 and 75 kilometres per hour and costs between \$1000 and \$1500. In South Australia, the motorcycle is only available from K-Mart stores.

"It is legal to sell these motorcycles, but it would be an expensive mistake to buy one and then realise it can only be ridden on private property."

The Mongoose and any others like it are actually motor vehicles but cannot be registered because they do not comply with Vehicle Standards Regulations. Any motorcycle ridden on roads or in public places must be registered by Transport SA and can only be ridden by a licensed rider.

Superintendent Tony Rankine, Officer in Charge of SAPOL's Traffic Support Branch said, "Anyone found riding this type of bike or any other non-registrable motorised bike or vehicle on a public road or in a public place commits an expiable offence."

OCBA and SAPOL also warned people who ride these types of bike to wear the appropriate safety gear at all times.

Superintendent Rankine also said, "Parents should think carefully before they buy any kind of motorised bike for their children and if they do buy one to make sure that they also buy the appropriate safety gear and insist that it is worn at all times by the child while they are riding the bike. They also need to remember that these types of bikes are capable of doing 60-70 kilometers per hour and a crash at that speed can have very serious consequences.

Consumers are encouraged to purchase safety gear from specialised motorbike stores. Helmets should meet Australian Standards.

The warning also calls to mind the death of a young man earlier this year, allegedly riding a miniature motorcycle in a shopping centre car park without appropriate safety gear.

Mr Bodycoat said, "If you are going to buy one of these, include the safety gear when you do."

If consumers think have received inaccurate information from traders about the motorcycle's use they should contact OCBA on 8204 9777. For more information on motorised bicycles and scooters contact Transport SA on 131 084 or the South Australian Police -Traffic Training on 8207 6586.