

# Media Release



Government of South Australia

Office of Consumer and  
Business Affairs

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## Think carefully before buying a monkey bike

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat, today warned consumers to think carefully before spending money on a monkey bike for Christmas.

The monkey bike, sometimes also called a pocket rocket, is a miniature version of a motorcycle. It is about half the size of a standard road bike or less, and is powered by a 50cc petrol motor. Some can be capable of speeds of more than 70km/h.

“Monkey bikes are expensive items. They cannot be used on any public road, on the footpath, or in any public place. Consumers may spend anything from a few hundred up to a thousand dollars to purchase a bike that they can only ride on private property.”

The warning followed promotion of a sale of similar bikes at the Adelaide Showgrounds in the lead up to Christmas.

The half size motorcycle is classified as a motor vehicle but cannot be licensed because it does not comply with Vehicle Standards Regulations and Australian Design Rules. In general, motorised vehicles used on roads or in public places, need to be registered by Transport SA and can only be ridden by licensed riders.

“Consumers should think carefully about where they can use a bike like this, and the safety considerations, before they decide to buy one.”

Mr Bodycoat said that monkey bikes were covered by the terms of a dangerous goods declaration that required them to meet four main safety-related standards. These dealt with the requirements for kill switches, the strength of foot pegs, brakes, and free movement in the steering.

“If the bikes don’t meet these standards, they can’t be sold. Anyone who is considering purchasing a monkey bike should check the brakes, release of the throttle and the strength of the footrests. If you aren’t certain about them, consider whether you should buy the bike in the first place.”

“Even if the bike you buy meets the standards, consider your own safety and the safety of any other person who might use the bike. Have you thought about whether you need a helmet and other personal safety gear?”

If consumers think they have purchased bike that does not meet the standard, they should contact OCBA on 8204 9777.