



# E-scooters in SA: What you need to know

E-scooters and other personal mobility devices (PMDs) are now legal in South Australia, offering a fast, affordable and sustainable way to get around. These compact devices are gaining popularity for short trips, helping to cut carbon emissions, ease congestion, and open up more accessible transport options. As their use grows, it's vital to understand the rules, and know how to ride safely and responsibly.

## What is a PMD?

A PMD is a device which:

- has at least one wheel
- is designed for one person
- is propelled by an electric motor
- is 45kg or less
- can stop using brakes, gears or motor control
- has no sharp protrusions
- meets AUS/NZ electrical safety standards
- is no more than 125cm long, 70cm wide and 135cm high.

Examples of devices that could be PMDs include:

- e-scooters
- e-skateboards
- e-solo-wheels.

A PMD fitted with a seat is legal to ride provided it meets the requirements.

The following vehicles or devices are not PMDs:

- vehicles with pedals (bicycles, e-bicycles)
- motorised mobility devices, such as mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs
- wheeled recreational devices without a motor, such as skateboards, roller skates and foot scooters
- any electric powered device designed for one person that does not fit within the requirements listed above.

## What rules apply when riding a PMD?

PMD riders must:

- be aged 16 years or over
- wear an approved bike helmet or motorcycle helmet, properly adjusted and securely fastened
- use flashing or steady front and rear lights, if riding at night or in low light
- have a bell, horn or similar warning device attached, in working order
- park responsibly in a location that does not disrupt pedestrians or pose a safety hazard
- not ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- not carry passengers
- not allow a person under the age of 16 years to ride or be carried on a PMD
- not hold a mobile phone or rest it on any part of the rider's body when riding (mounting is allowed)
- comply with speed limits
- not ride a PMD alongside another PMD
- not ride PMDs where not permitted.

Penalties will apply for anyone caught breaking the rules, including potentially incurring demerit points.



**E-scooters are an example of a PMD**

## **When riding on an off-road path, you must always:**

- keep left where possible and give way to pedestrians
- keep a safe distance when travelling near pedestrians so you can avoid a collision
- keep left of oncoming bicycles, PMDs and other vehicles.

## **Where can I ride a PMD and what are the speed limits?**

You can legally ride a PMD on:

- footpaths, shared paths, beaches and road crossings – as long as you don't exceed 10km/h
- separated footpaths, bicycle paths or bicycle lanes (physically separated from other traffic) – as long as you don't exceed 25km/h
- bike lanes where the maximum road speed limit is no greater than 50km/h – as long as you don't exceed 25km/h
- any road without bike lanes where the maximum speed limit is no greater than 50km/h – as long as you don't exceed 25km/h.

E-scooters will be permitted on roads where the maximum speed limit is 60km/h but must ride in a bicycle lane and stick to the maximum speed limit of 25km/h. If a bicycle lane on a 60km/h road is only operational during specific times, e-scooters are only permitted on them during those times. In other cases, they must use the footpath.

PMDs that are not e-scooters can only travel on roads where the speed limit is 50km/h or less, except:

- when something is blocking the footpath, bike path, or shared path next to the road, and the rider needs to use the road for less than 50 metres to get around it
- to cross the road.

For bike lanes and roads where the speed limit is less than 25km/h, you must follow the speed limit of the bike lane or road.



**Mobility scooters are not PMDs**

## **Do I need a licence and does my PMD need to be registered?**

PMD riders do not require a driver's licence to ride these devices. PMDs are not required to be registered. Compulsory third party insurance does not apply to PMDs.

If, while using a PMD, the rider injures a third party or damages property they could be liable. PMD riders may wish to consider insurance, check their insurance policy or contact their insurer for further information.

## **Can I use a mobile phone while riding?**

Holding a mobile phone or resting it on your body while riding is illegal. Riders may mount a mobile phone to their handlebars to use the device for GPS navigation or as a speedometer, provided they do not touch it.

You can use a mobile phone in your hand when stationary on paths or nature strips.

## **Do these rules apply to hired e-scooters?**

The new rules will apply to hired e-scooters as well as privately owned devices.

## **Can I take my e-scooter on public transport?**

PMDs are not permitted on Adelaide Metro trains, trams and buses.

The State Government has committed to a review of these rules in July 2026.

## **We're here to help**

**Call our Road Safety team on 8202 4570  
or email [motoringroadrules@raa.com.au](mailto:motoringroadrules@raa.com.au)  
[raa.com.au/roadrules](http://raa.com.au/roadrules)**