

Wednesday, 19 September 2012

SIX PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR MOTORCYCLISTS

Minister for Road Safety Jennifer Rankine has released a discussion paper outlining six proposals to help improve the safety of motorbike and moped riders.

Motorcycle riders are almost 30 times more likely to be killed in a crash than drivers of other vehicles, per billion kilometres travelled.

"Last year, 103 people died on South Australian roads, of these 21 were motorcyclists. Over the last decade, 174 motorcyclists were killed and 1649 were seriously injured on the State's roads," Ms Rankine said.

Motorcycle Riders Association of South Australia Vice President and Road Safety Officer Neville Gray said the MRASA welcomed the opportunity to have input into the proposals.

"I encourage all motorcyclists to consider taking the time to read through the proposals and share their views with the Government on these important issues," Mr Gray said.

The discussion paper outlines the following proposals:

- Requiring a car licence to be held for at least 12 months before being eligible to apply for a motorcycle learner's permit.
- A compulsory six month period between the Basic and Advanced Rider Safe training courses.
- Requiring all licence holders endorsed with R-Date to have zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) while riding a motorcycle.
- Introducing specific licensing and training requirements for riders of mopeds (motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 50 millilitres).
- Riders with an R-Date licence endorsement (including riders of mopeds) to be banned from carrying a pillion passenger.
- Exploring options for a Motorcycle Safety Fund dedicated to motorcycle safety initiatives to address high and disproportionate risks.

Professor Mary Lydon, Director of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research, said the proposals are supported by research, motorcycle safety experts and experience in other states and countries.

"Motorcyclists, particularly novice riders, are at an extremely high risk on our roads and this suite of actions would have a significant impact in reducing the trauma suffered by these vulnerable road users," Professor Lydon.

Ms Rankine said motorbikes account for about three per cent of all registered vehicles but are involved in 14 per cent of South Australian road fatalities.

"The number of registered motorcycles in South Australia has increased by 20 per cent in the last five years, from around 40,000 in December 2007 to 48,000 in December 2011.

"For the five years from 2007 to 2011, about a quarter of riders involved in fatal crashes had gained either an R-Date or a Full R motorcycle licence endorsement less than a year before the crash.

"They are vulnerable due to lack of protection, low visibility, instability, difficulties in braking effectively, errors in judgement and risky behaviour."

The proposals align with the *Towards Zero Together*, Road Safety Strategy 2020. The release of the discussion paper is a priority action in the 2011 and 2012 Road Safety Action.

"A reduction in motorcycle deaths and injuries would represent a major contribution to improving road safety and meeting the State's target of less than 80 fatalities and 800 serious injuries by 2020."

The discussion paper is open for comment until Friday, 16 November 2012.

Feedback from riders, road safety stakeholders, motorcycling organisations and other interested people will be considered before any decisions are made.

To find out more or to comment on the proposals visit: sa.gov.au/towardszerotogether