**November 2022**

**Draft article for School newsletters**

**New e-scooter rules and fines**

New rules and increased fines have been introduced for riders of e-scooters, e-skateboards and similar devices that aim to make riders and everyone they interact with safer.

Visit [Streetsmarts Qld](https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/initiatives/pmd-rules/) for a quick and easy to understand listing of the new and existing rules, including:

* Lower speed limits of 12km/h on footpaths and shared paths, and 25km/h max elsewhere unless signed otherwise.
* Increased fines for mobile phone use ($1078).
* Increased fines for speeding and riding on prohibited roads.
* Mandatory helmets (bicycle or motorcycle) and bells for devices with handlebars.
* Age limits:
	+ Only those aged 16+ can ride e-scooters and e-skateboards.
	+ 12–15-year-olds can only ride with adult supervision. Adult supervisors must have close direct oversight of the juvenile PMD rider at all times to provide direction, guidance and potential intervention.
	+ Primary school aged children, under 12 years, shouldn't be riding e-scooters or e-skateboards. They can ride low powered electric scooters, which have a maximum speed of 10 km/h or less and are powered by a small electric motor capable of producing 200W or less. These are considered wheeled recreational devices and have a separate set of rules to PMDs. More information is available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads [website](https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/wheeled-devices/skateboards).
* No passengers – one person only at a time per scooter.
* Where to ride:
	+ Paths – footpaths, shared paths, separated paths and bike paths
	+ Local streets (speed limit of 50km/h or less, no dividing centre line)
	+ On-road bike lanes (where the road speed limit is 50km/h or less, or where the lane is physically separated from the road).

The website features new videos demonstrating where you can ride e-scooters and at what speeds, as well as other helpful safety tips.

Visit [StreetsmartsQld](https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/initiatives/pmd-rules/) for more details.