

e-scooters in Victoria

Summary of trial findings
March 2023



For more information about e-scooters in Victoria visit:
vicroads.vic.gov.au/escooters



Department
of Transport
and Planning

What we heard

The desire to use micromobility devices including e-scooters is growing among Victorians.

The trial in metro Melbourne and Ballarat was very popular with riders and some stakeholders.

While their use was illegal on public roads, private e-scooter ownership is widespread with approximately 100,000 across the state.

Those who want to use e-scooters told us they want rules for their safe use. Benefits of e-scooter use include:

- reduced emissions and congestion
- increased transport connectivity
- and enabling economic activity.

You're excited about micromobility and said allowing e-scooters will

- improve first and last-kilometre connections
- improve activity levels in neighbourhoods and precincts
- reduce congestion and carbon emissions
- enhance security and safety for some users
- deliver economic benefits, jobs and local business.

We heard your concerns, and will address these through new regulations

- safety of e-scooters for riders
- safety of e-scooters alongside other road users
- safety of pedestrians on footpaths
- poor parking of trial e-scooters on footpaths
- what happens when rules are not followed and enforcement by police.

What you asked

Why are you extending the e-scooter trial?

In Victoria, there are about 100,000 e-scooters that are privately owned.

Over the next six months, we will monitor how hire and private e-scooters are being used.

This is being done to make sure that the rules and regulations that are in place are fit-for-purpose and can effectively handle any safety concerns that may arise.

The trial found that e-scooters are a popular way to get around and there is a high demand from Victorians to be able to use them.

Although the trial gave us a significant amount of information, we need to ensure that e-scooters can be safely incorporated into the transport network on a long-term basis.

Extending the trial will provide this additional data to evaluate and inform future regulations.

Our number one priority is the safety of everyone who uses roads in Victoria.

What have you learnt so far from the trial?

We now better understand how e-scooters can operate here in Victoria – both in a metropolitan and regional city environment. The trial also gave stakeholders and communities a chance to see and try e-scooters firsthand.

We also identified concerns related to the use of e-scooters, which we have addressed through new rules to ensure their safe and practical use.

What safety concerns were raised?

Safety concerns included high speed riding, riding on footpaths, not wearing a helmet and carrying a passenger.

Safety risks increased when riders did not observe safety-based rules.

How are you responding to safety concerns?

During the extended trial period, the trial rules and regulations will apply to both privately owned and hire e-scooters, with a primary focus on safety for riders, other road users, and pedestrians.

We will also work with key stakeholders to ensure appropriate safety standards are applied to e-scooters and safety equipment.

What are you doing to address the safety concerns of pedestrians?

We have banned e-scooters on footpaths, and riders who disobey this rule will face penalties

What's next?

From 5 April 2023, the legal use of privately owned e-scooters under trial conditions will be in effect.

To evaluate the safety of e-scooter usage, we are reducing the minimum age to 16 years, allowing riders to use them on roads with a speed limit up to 60 kilometres per hour.

Younger Victorians are interested in using e-scooters during the trial period, and we noted that restricting riders to roads with a speed limit of 50 kilometre per hour had limitations on where riders could travel.

All e-scooter riders must comply with the following rules:

- Do not ride on footpaths
- be 16 years and over
- use a helmet while riding
- ride in a single file only
- do not carry passengers or animals
- do not use a mobile phone
- do not ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- adhere to a maximum speed limit of 20 km/h
- ride only on roads with a speed limit up to 60km/h, in bicycle lanes on these roads, on bicycle paths or separated and shared-use paths
- not ride a high-speed e-scooter – capable of more than 25km/h (this is considered an unregistered vehicle and penalties apply).