

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 15

06 February 2026

Question No. 804

Ms Fiona Carrick MLA: To ask the Minister for City and Government Services -

1. What regulations apply to the (a) sale, (b) modification and (c) use of power-on-demand (as opposed to pedal-assist) electric bicycles in the ACT.
2. Is it legal to ride power-on-demand electric bicycles on shared paths and cycleways in the ACT.
3. What compliance activity does the Government take in relation to power-on-demand electric bicycles.
4. Does the Government have any plans to reform regulations applying to power-on-demand electric bicycles.

Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows -

1. The regulations applicable to vehicles with power assistance that comply with the definition of a bicycle are the same as for normal (non-power-assisted) pedal cycles.

Vehicles that look like a bicycle but do not comply with the definition of a bicycle are not permitted to be used on roads and road related areas and the use of such vehicles is limited to private land. Such vehicles would generally be considered to be a moped or motorcycle and would not generally be able to obtain registration to be able to be used on roads as they don't normally meet the vehicle standards applicable for registration.

In relation to power-on-demand electric vehicles that look like a bicycle, that is not propelled using any form of pedal assist (for example, by using a throttle):

- a) There are currently no specific restrictions to the sale of power-on-demand vehicles in the ACT, but their sale is generally regulated by the national *Australian Consumer Law* (e.g. it is illegal for a retailer to make representations, including by omission, that a particular electric vehicle can be used on ACT roads or road related areas when it is not permitted by ACT regulations).
- b) There are no restrictions on modifying power-on-demand vehicles for use on private land.
- c) Use of power-on-demand electric vehicles that do not comply with bicycle definition requirements is limited to private property.

2. Vehicles complying with the requirements of the definition of a bicycle can be used on roads and road related areas in the same way as non-power-assisted bicycles can be used. Vehicles that look like a bicycle but do not comply with the bicycle definition requirements may not be used on roads and road related areas, including bicycle paths, shared paths and footpaths.
3. ACT Policing adopts a proportionate, education-first approach to compliance activity in relation to electric bicycles, particularly for young or first-time riders, to support awareness of legal requirements and promote safer riding behaviour. Enforcement action is prioritised where there is an increased risk to public safety, consistent with the ACT Government's Vision Zero approach to road safety.

ACT Policing seek to act in a way that is intelligence-led and targeted, focusing on unsafe or dangerous riding behaviour, illegal modifications, and devices that do not meet the legislative definition of a bicycle (power-assisted pedal cycle).

Where non-compliant vehicles are identified, ACT Policing may take appropriate enforcement action under ACT Road Transport legislation, including the issuance of infringement notices or vehicle seizure where warranted, supported by community reporting and coordinated patrol activity subject to operational priorities.

4. The government currently has no plans to amend current regulations in relation to bicycles, motorcycles or unregistered vehicles. The government is monitoring policy and regulatory activity in other jurisdictions.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA
Minister for City and Government Services

Date: 17/3/25

This response required 4hrs 45mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$579.96.