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Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications, Sport and the Arts

Ms Georgie Park-Beard
Acting Coroner's Registrar
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

via: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Park-Beard

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2025 to Ms Chris (Christine) Burke, former Chief Counsel at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) enclosing a copy of Coroner Paul Lawrie's Finding with inquest into the death of Moustafa Aboueid (your reference COR 2022 005630). I am responding on the department's behalf as the Branch Head responsible for the regulatory framework for providing road vehicles in Australia.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Aboueid. The department takes road safety extremely seriously, and we recognise that every life lost on Australian roads is a tragedy.

I refer to Recommendation 1 of the Finding made under section 72(2) of the Victorian *Coroners Act 2008*, which recommends:

"With a view to supporting Victorian road safety legislation (and the road safety legislation of other states and territories) which prohibits the use of high power / high speed e-scooters on public roads, the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts:

- (a) review the conclusion that e-scooters capable of speeds higher than 25 km/h are not road vehicles for the purposes of the *Road Vehicles Standards Act 2018*;
- (b) consider a ban on the importation of high power / high speed e-scooters, save for individual instances on an exemption basis where a proper use case can be established and;
- (c) consider a ban on the sale within Australia of high power / high speed e-scooters, save for individual instances on an exemption basis where a proper use case can be established."

The department has carefully considered Coroner Lawrie's recommendation. We acknowledge the concerns raised and agree that improving the safety of personal mobility devices (PMDs), including high-powered e-scooters, requires a coordinated and comprehensive approach.

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On 11 August 2025, the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government chaired the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting, where the safety of PMDs was a key agenda item. Ministers agreed to work collaboratively to develop an integrated national regulatory framework aimed at improving safety for both riders and pedestrians.

This work is being led by Western Australia, with support from the National Transport Commission (NTC), the department, and other jurisdictions.

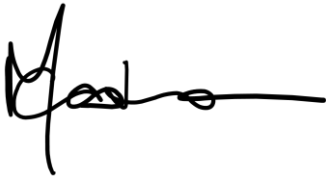
While all options to reduce PMD-related risks—including potential bans—are being considered, current discussions recognise that banning the importation or sale of high-powered e-scooters alone is unlikely to be sufficient. The ability for devices to be modified post-importation, assembled from parts, or evade detection at the border presents significant challenges.

To address these issues, the department is working closely with other transport agencies to develop a holistic framework that will include clear and enforceable standards, education and awareness initiatives, and robust compliance and enforcement mechanisms.

We believe this integrated approach offers the most effective pathway to improving PMD safety and responding to Coroner Lawrie's recommendation in a meaningful and sustainable way.

The department will provide an update to the Coroner once this national work is complete.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Melissa Cashman
Assistant Secretary
Vehicle Safety Policy and Partnerships

31 October 2025

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