



**HASTINGS COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SERVICES
MEDIA RELEASE**

Is That Christmas Present Illegal?

Tuesday 21 December, 2004

With Christmas right around the corner Karen Thompson, Road Safety Officer for Hastings Council, is concerned there may be an influx of illegally ridden motorised scooters and mini-motorcycles on the roads in the Hastings Local Government Area.

Ms Thompson said, "With scooters and mini-motorcycles high on the Christmas wish list, people needed to be aware that it is illegal to ride these motorised vehicles on the road or on any road-related area such as footpaths and car parks.

"These motorised scooters and mini-motorcycles are categorised as vehicles and any vehicles must be registered and insured before they can be ridden on the road. People don't realise though that motorised scooters and mini motorcycles can't be registered and so legally they can only be used on private land. Riders would also have to have a licence if they were to ride them on the road which is not possible for many of the young riders." Said Ms Thompson.

Those selling these vehicles may be in breach of the Motor Dealers Act if they do not hold a Motor Dealers license with the fine for this offence being \$5,500.

Anyone caught riding a motorised scooter or mini-motorcycle on a public road or footpath can be fined for riding an unregistered and uninsured vehicle, incurring fines totalling \$944. In addition if they do not hold a license for riding the scooter or motorcycle and are not wearing a motorcycle helmet, the total of fines could be closer to \$1500.

According to Ms Thompson, "the best rule of thumb to use is that if it doesn't have pedals – it's not legal."

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For further information contact Karen Thompson, Road Safety Officer, Hastings Council on 6581 8656 or mobile 0438 818 090.