

E-bikes (Bicycles) vs E-dirt bike (motorcycle)

Important safety advice



Police are seeing increasing numbers of young people illegally riding high-powered e-dirt bikes (motorcycles), posing serious safety risks.

What is an E-bike (electric bicycle)?

- An **e-bike** is a bicycle with a motor that helps you pedal.
- Some **e-bikes** are not motor vehicles – under a power-assisted cycles (declaration not to be motor vehicles) Notice 2013 [Gazette](#) notice. These have one or more battery motors that have a combined maximum power output that must be 300W or less, **they don't require registration and can be used without a driver licence**. For example:



What is NOT a legal E-bike?

- Any **e-bikes** that exceed a motor power output of 300W.
- Any **e-bikes** that can move **without pedaling** (limited throttle only start for stability prior to pedaling is permitted).
- Electric and petrol dirt bikes and “choppers” without pedals (which are a moped or motorcycle) and pedal assisted mopeds. If speed capability $\leq 50\text{km/h}$ it's a moped, if speed capability $> 50\text{ km/h}$ it's a motorcycle.



- Before purchasing, parents and caregivers should understand the legal requirements and understand that many devices being sold today **CANNOT** be used in public places such as roads and footpaths.

Safety first

- Our goal is to prevent serious harm and help young people ride safely and responsibly.
- Police will continue to engage with young riders and will take an education-first approach. However, where there is significant risk, we may need to take enforcement action.

Additional information

- You will find more information on e-bikes on the NZTA website here:

