

Call for new recreational motorbike licence

The Country Alliance party has called for the state government to introduce a junior recreational motorbike licence to enable 14 to 18 year olds ride motor bikes in accompaniment with fully licensed riders.

The new licence would allow supervised apprentices and trainees to work on private land checking fencing or rounding up cattle, in compliance with worksafety rules which require riders to be licensed. The licence would only permit the use of motorbikes up to 250cc in capacity where 'recreational motorbike registration' applies, which does not include signposted public roads.

Outdoor recreation spokesperson, Andrew Jones, said the licence would also enable minors to comply with the requirements of many councils relating to the use of motor bikes on private and public property for recreational use, such as the popular Blue Light Ride.

"At the moment, riders under 18 are severely limited where they can ride," he said.

He said the current restrictions means juniors are limited in their ability to work on the land, and to participate in recreational motor bike activities where they can be supervised.

"The licence we are proposing would fill a badly needed void for those wishing to use motor bikes off road."

"Not only would the licence address a real need in country Victoria, but it would also help the junior rider to learn valuable riding skills for up to four years fully supervised before they move onto obtaining their learners permit to ride a motorbike on the road."

"This can only help reduce the risks for new riders particularly when they are confronted with car drivers on our main road network who may not be paying attention."

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