

Mandatory Off-road Vehicle Registration Policy

July 2025

Motor Trade Association of WA Policy Statement

Off-road vehicles (ORV) to be registered at the point of sale. ORV as defined by the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978.

Recommendations

1. Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) registration and renewal applications to be available online either through DoT Direct or through the Dealer Online System developed and managed by the Department of Transport WA.
2. The Motor Trade Association of WA (MTA WA), in conjunction with the Local Government, develop promotional material showcasing the benefits of registering an ORV at the point of sale.
3. MTA WA to promote a voluntary industry-led initiative to register all ORVs at the point of sale and,
4. Government to amend legislation to include compulsory registration of ORVs at the point of first sale.

Background

- ORV registration in Western Australia is voluntary, and therefore, the percentage of registered ORVs is low.
- ORV registration revenue is collected by the Department of Transport WA on behalf of Local Government and deposited into the ORV special purpose account.
- The Department of Transport WA does not retain funds from the registration of ORVs.
- The funds available in the ORV special-purpose account are insufficient to provide adequate funding for the development and maintenance of ORV areas.
- State and local governments must manage permitted ORV areas in accordance with the Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978.
- The process to apply for a new ORV area to be established or an existing area to be closed must be done in accordance with legislation, and this process includes the review and recommendations from the minister's advisory committee.
- It is widely reported that the illegal use of ORVs is negatively affecting the community through noise pollution, dangerous driving, causing injury and in some cases death.

- Law enforcement and criminal investigations are hampered by the lack of documented vehicle details on a nationally searchable database.
- Due to increased liability and responsibility of managing an ORV area, local shires are reluctant to consider and pursue community interest in the development of an ORV area, which is further exacerbated by the lack of available funds in the special-purpose account.

Rationale

- The registration of ORVs will contribute to the collection of the owner and vehicle details.
- Registration fees collected from ORVs are directed into a special-purpose account for the sole purpose of creating or improving ORV areas.
- An increase in available funds in the ORV special-purpose account can provide funding for the necessary maintenance of existing ORV areas and contribute to the development of new ORV areas.
- Local shires will be encouraged to make an application for an ORV area to be permitted due to the increase in available funds.
- The collection of vehicle details will assist authorities in dealing with stolen vehicles and provide a better understanding of the vehicles that are sold.
- The collection of owner details will provide data on the location and demographics of vehicle owners, assist in law enforcement and allow education and awareness of ORV areas.
- It is anticipated that an increase in suitably maintained ORV areas will reduce illegal use of ORVs.

End.

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