



**makes and
models**

Choose the right motorcycle

Riding a motorcycle is more physically and mentally demanding than driving a car, and the relationship between machine and human is that much closer. So it is important to choose the right motorcycle for you.

Before you buy a motorcycle, talk to experienced riders for advice. Think about what you want to use your motorcycle for: is it for touring on weekends, everyday commuting, off road riding or sporting pursuits?

Also, be realistic about your size, weight and strength. You need to consider this so you will be able to manoeuvre quickly, efficiently and confidently. If upgrading to a more powerful bike after gaining your class R licence, take time to practice, because the handling is very different from smaller motorcycles.



Sports

Sports motorcycles are designed purely for performance. With their powerful engines, they tend to require arms-forward posture and strict handling. Sports motorcycles are sometimes called 'performance bikes' and are known for speed, acceleration, deceleration, and manoeuvrability capabilities.

There are certain design elements that most sports motorcycles share. They have comparatively high performance engines resting inside a lightweight frame, which helps maintain structural integrity and chassis rigidity. Their braking systems combine higher performance brake pads and multi-piston callipers, which clamp onto oversized vented rotors. Their advanced suspension systems bring increased stability and durability. Fairings may or may not be found on a sports motorcycle. When used, the fairings are shaped to reduce aerodynamic drag as much as possible, and generally offer less wind protection for the rider.



Tourer

Touring motorcycles were created solely for long-distance comfort. They often feature backrests, large windscreens and larger fairings, and creature comforts like radios and navigation systems.



Road/trail

Road/trail motorcycles are dual-purpose and can be used both on road and off road.

Road/trail bikes used on the road must be registered and roadworthy.



Cruiser

Cruisers are designed for laid-back riding. These motorcycles mimic the style of American motorcycles from the 1930s to the early 1960s. The riding position always places the feet forward and usually with the hands up and the spine erect or leaning back slightly, which some riders find to be more comfortable for long-distance riding. Some cruisers may have limited performance and turning ability because of a low-slung design. Cruisers are sometimes called 'custom bikes' even in the absence of aftermarket modifications.



Naked

Naked motorcycles lack bodywork or a fairing that would normally hide their engines and inner workings. Also known as a 'standard' or 'street' bike, this is the basic form of the motorcycle stripped down to its fundamental parts. The emphasis here is on functionality, performance and ergonomics rather than aerodynamic body panels and exaggerated riding positions that are common on sports motorcycles. Current naked motorcycles are usually given a modern, more-or-less sporting suspension, unless they are intended to have 'retro' styling.



Scooters

Scooters are like small motorcycles with bodywork that allows the rider to step through, often typified by the Italian-made 'Vespa'. Scooter engine sizes can be as little as 50 ml and as high as 650 ml.



Mopeds

A moped is a small, light motorcycle that may be either two or three wheeled. Mopeds have a piston engine with a maximum engine capacity of 50 ml, and a maximum speed of 50 km/h.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and quad bikes

ATVs and quad bikes are four-wheeled vehicles used by farmers, local governments, search and rescue teams, and for adventure tourism. These vehicles, including off road buggies, do not meet national vehicle safety standards and are not eligible for unconditional registration for use on roads or road-related areas.

Motorcycle trailers

Trailers that are designed to be towed by motorcycles are available. However, because of the added risk involved, no manufacturer of single-track motorcycles recommends that they be used to tow trailers. Although there are aftermarket trailers that allow motorcycles to tow, factory made motorcycles specialised for towing are rare.

Imports and custom motorcycles

An imported motorcycle is one that has been manufactured overseas and brought into Australia. An imported motorcycle may not meet the Australian standards.

If you want to import a motorcycle there are some steps you must take if you want to register it in the Northern Territory.

An imported motorcycle may need to comply with the following:

- Australian Design Rules (ADR)
- federal vehicle standards requirements
- state/territory vehicle standards requirements.

For further information, please contact the MVR.

Classic and vintage motorcycles

There are a small number of exceptions to some design and functional requirements for certain classic and vintage motorcycles. For further information, please contact the MVR Vehicle Standards Section.