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Topical Issues for Update: Hoverboards

Issue

- Hoverboards (also known as 'self-balancing scooters') have caused six house fires and at least seven other incidents involving fire, smoking, overheating and sparking in Australia since November 2015.

Key points

- On 18 March 2016, the Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP imposed a 60 day interim ban on the sale of hoverboards that did not meet specific safety standards that reduce the risk of fire (legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L00357).
- Hoverboards that meet the safety requirements regarding product circuitry; the lithium ion batteries; and the chargers associated with the products, can be supplied safely to Australian consumers.
- The ACCC is actively investigating the safety of these products while the interim ban is in place.
- The Minister extended the interim ban for 30 days from 18 May 2016, and extended it for a further 30 days to end on 17 July 2016.
- The ACCC consulted with hoverboard suppliers, state electrical safety regulators and consumer groups about the interim ban and the longer term response to hoverboard fires. The ACCC developed a Regulation Impact Statement that supported its recommendation to the Minister about the longer term response in late June 2016.

Commented [MS1]: All highlighted text will need to be updated in the first week of July as ongoing.

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