# British woman charged with death by dangerous e-scooter driving in Perth amid rising injuries



A British woman has been charged in Australia following the tragic death of an Australian man due to an e-scooter collision. Alicia Kemp, 24, from Redditch, allegedly struck Thanh Phan, 51, while riding an e-scooter in Perth city centre on 31 May. According to prosecutors, she was under the influence of alcohol, with a blood alcohol level of 0.158—well above Australia's legal limit of 0.05. This incident marks a serious escalation in concerns surrounding e-scooter safety, as it occurred amidst a backdrop of rising injuries related to similar vehicles in Western Australia.

In a court hearing, prosecutors described CCTV footage that depicted Ms Kemp's "inexplicably dangerous" driving. They highlighted evasive actions taken by pedestrians before the collision. Mr Phan sustained critical head injuries from the accident and passed away two days later. The charge against Ms Kemp carries significant consequences, with a potential maximum prison term of 20 years for death by dangerous driving while under the influence. She has also been charged with dangerous driving occasioning bodily harm, as her passenger suffered serious injuries, including a fractured skull and a broken nose when the e-scooter crashed.

Court proceedings revealed that both Ms Kemp and her passenger had been drinking since the afternoon and were forcibly removed from a bar prior to renting the e-scooter that evening. Following the incident, Perth authorities reacted promptly by suspending e-scooter hire services in the city. This suspension aligns with the growing concern over safety regulations for e-scooter use, especially given the alarming increase in e-scooter injuries in the region. In 2022, the Royal Perth Hospital noted a rise from 39 to 62 serious e-scooter admissions, with many cases linked to alcohol consumption and a shocking lack of helmets.

The situation surrounding e-scooter safety in Australia has drawn public attention, particularly after a string of severe incidents. Earlier this year, the tragic death of a 13-year-old boy following a similar accident in Perth led to widespread calls for improved safety measures, particularly concerning helmet use. Additionally, the Western Australia police minister has initiated a review of e-scooter regulations, signalling a potential overhaul of existing safety guidelines aimed at preventing further fatalities.

Mr Phan's family described him as a beloved husband and father, expressing their grief and calling for regulatory changes to prevent similar tragedies. They emphasised the need for stringent safety measures concerning hire e-scooters to mitigate risks, which have become increasingly prevalent as these devices gain popularity.

As incidents involving e-scooters continue to escalate, the conversation surrounding responsible use and regulatory oversight is gaining momentum. From reviewing drink-driving laws to implementing mandatory helmet regulations, authorities are under pressure to ensure that safety comes first for users and pedestrians alike. The community remains watchful as this story unfolds, hoping for a swift resolution that prioritises public safety.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c628122ex94o), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/may/04/man-riding-electric-scooter-dies-after-collision-with-cyclist-in-perth)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c628122ex94o), [[2]](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-25/warning-of-exponential-rise-in-e-scooter-crashes/102145078), [[5]](https://wamnnews.com.au/news/wa-police-investigate-deadly-e-scooter-crash-in-wanneroo/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://7news.com.au/news/wa/perth-familys-heartbreaking-safety-plea-after-boy-13-dies-following-horror-e-scooter-crash-c-5784138), [[6]](https://apnews.com/arts-and-entertainment-general-news-c74e8c715a214b47a5e4add2f1e6c08e)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c628122ex94o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-25/warning-of-exponential-rise-in-e-scooter-crashes/102145078> - This article discusses the significant increase in e-scooter injuries in Western Australia, highlighting a near-exponential rise in serious crashes. It reports that in 2021, there were 39 e-scooter patients admitted to Royal Perth Hospital for more than 24 hours, which increased to 62 in 2022. The article also notes that a significant number of riders were under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and many were not wearing helmets, contributing to the severity of injuries.
3. <https://7news.com.au/news/wa/perth-familys-heartbreaking-safety-plea-after-boy-13-dies-following-horror-e-scooter-crash-c-5784138> - This report covers the tragic death of a 13-year-old boy in Perth after an e-scooter collision. The boy was riding with friends when his scooter collided with a vehicle, leading to life-threatening head injuries. His family made the decision to turn off his life support, and his father issued a plea for helmet safety. The article also includes statements from authorities urging e-scooter users to ride safely and sensibly.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/may/04/man-riding-electric-scooter-dies-after-collision-with-cyclist-in-perth> - This article reports on the death of a man in Perth after his electric scooter collided with a cyclist. The incident occurred early in the morning, and the rider was rushed to hospital but later died from his injuries. The article discusses the growing popularity of e-scooters and the need for safety measures, including helmet use and adherence to speed limits, as well as the investigation into the crash.
5. <https://wamnnews.com.au/news/wa-police-investigate-deadly-e-scooter-crash-in-wanneroo/> - This news piece details a fatal e-scooter crash in Wanneroo, Western Australia, where a 41-year-old man lost control of his e-scooter and fell, resulting in critical injuries that led to his death. The police are investigating the incident and have called for witnesses to come forward. The article also provides contact information for Crime Stoppers and mentions support services for those affected by road trauma.
6. <https://apnews.com/arts-and-entertainment-general-news-c74e8c715a214b47a5e4add2f1e6c08e> - This article discusses the death of British YouTuber Emily Hartridge in an electric scooter accident, raising concerns about the safety of e-scooters. It highlights that, despite being illegal in the UK to ride motorized scooters on roads or sidewalks, the law is widely flouted. The article also mentions other incidents involving e-scooter accidents and the need for increased safety measures.
7. <https://www.6pr.com.au/breaking-e-scooters-under-scrutiny-after-man-dies-in-thornlie/> - This report covers the death of a man in Thornlie, Perth, after his e-scooter collided with a bicycle. The incident occurred early in the morning, and the rider was rushed to hospital but later died from his injuries. The article includes statements from authorities emphasizing the dangers of e-scooters and the need for safety precautions, such as wearing helmets and adhering to speed limits.