



MEDIA RELEASE

SAFETY ON TWO WHEELS

Mr Geoff Corrigan MP, Chair of the NSW Parliament's Staysafe Committee, today tabled the Committee's report on Vulnerable Road Users, looking specifically at motorcycles and pedal cycles.

"The road network is undergoing a dramatic change in usage. Roads now have to accommodate an increasing and diverse number of vulnerable riders and this requires the development of improved strategies to share the roads safely", said Mr Corrigan. "On present trends, the number of cyclists will double in the next six years and this should help reduce congestion and cut carbon emissions".

"The rollout of cycleways and other road infrastructure improvements, although at times controversial, will assist in making the road network safer and encourage more people to take up cycling for personal health and recreational reasons, as well as for commuting. Staysafe supports all initiatives to provide a safer road environment for the whole community and has made a series of recommendations to improve safety for motorcyclists and pedal cyclists alike", Mr Corrigan continued.

"One of the more controversial recommendations in this Report is the reduction in prescribed blood alcohol concentration for motorcycle riders to 0.02. Riding a motorcycle requires great coordination and balancing skills and high powers of concentration. Staysafe has therefore recommended that the current alcohol limit be reduced, to reflect the disproportionately high rates of casualties for male motorcycle riders compared to vehicle drivers". "This initiative has the support of the NSW Police and road safety organisations," said Mr Corrigan.

Other significant recommendations in the Report include: improvements to data collection; an increased emphasis on the teaching and enforcement of the Road Rules for all road users; and closer collaboration between the NSW Government and local councils in safety transport planning and the implementation of safety strategies. A key message in the Report is that roads are vital access points and provide links for the conduct of all aspects of community life.

"Adoption of the Committee's recommendations will redress the historical imbalances and differential treatment provided to various categories of road users in the planning of the road system. The increasing popularity of alternative forms of transport should be reflected in redesigned policies to acknowledge the vulnerability needs of all user groups", Mr Corrigan concluded.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Geoff Corrigan, Committee Chair, on 0412 551 768.

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