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MEDIA RELEASE

ONE FATALITY IS ONE TOO MANY: REPORT ON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY IN NSW

Motorcyclists are overrepresented in NSW road trauma statistics. Reducing the number of motorcycle road casualties will require a mix of measures including greater use of technology, inventive policy solutions and improved partnerships, according to the Staysafe Committee's report on motorcycle safety in NSW released today.

While the relative risk of motorcycling has decreased, the number of motorcycle fatalities keeps increasing. The Committee noted it is this situation that needs to be addressed. "It is encouraging that high risk rider behaviour seems to be decreasing but there is no room for complacency," said Mr Greg Aplin MP, Chair of the Committee. "We still have far too many motorcycle road fatalities in this State".

One set of possible solutions identified by the Committee is the greater use of technology in areas such as reporting of road hazards. "Road users are often the first to identify safety issues on the road. We need a hazard reporting system that is easy to use, such as a phone app, to report any road incidents. And, we also need to ensure that the relevant authorities are technologically integrated to ensure road hazards are dealt with quickly," Mr Aplin said.

He emphasised that a partnership between State road authorities and local councils in delivering road safety systems of the 21st century is integral to any solution mix. The Committee has also made a number of recommendations to enhance driver skills, behaviour and awareness of riders and to improve the interaction between riders and other road users, particularly drivers.

The Committee also made a number of recommendations relating to the NSW Graduated Licensing Scheme to reflect best practice and recent developments in other Australian jurisdictions. A possible amnesty is also listed as an option to address the issue of unlicensed riding in order to bring unlicensed riders into the licensing system. "The Committee has highlighted the importance of having adequate support and ongoing professional training of riding instructors to enhance the safety of motorcycling in NSW. The shortage of rider training courses in rural and regional areas in NSW should also be addressed," Mr Aplin stated.

The report can be viewed at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/staysafe.

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