



# RACHEL NOLAN MP

## Member for Ipswich

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### IT'S MAGPIE SEASON!

The Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan today warned Ipswich people to watch out for magpies as they go about their yearly business of reproducing.

“Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services receive a staggering 500 calls on average at this time of year and I’ve already had a number of calls from people who’ve had themselves or their children frightened by swooping magpies.”

“There’s no way that all troublesome birds can be removed and with some understanding and education on the part of the community, there shouldn’t be a need,” Ms Nolan said.

Some important things to remember:

- Magpie swooping is almost entirely limited to the ‘defence zone’. Swooping lasts only while there are chicks in the nest (about six weeks) and is launched by the male whose aim it is to **drive the intruder away from the nest, not to cause injury**. If you leave quickly and quietly, the bird will almost always stop swooping.
- Cyclists should dismount as Magpies swoop almost everyone who rides in their territory.
- Pedestrians should protect themselves with a good hat or umbrella. Alternatively, take a different route where possible until breeding season is over.

“It is important for parents to warn their children and for the community in general to be aware of the simple precautions that can be taken to help us co-exist with these smart but feisty birds,” Ms Nolan said.

If you would like to pick up some further information, including signs to warn unsuspecting ‘intruders’ in a Magpie territory known to you, please call on 3202 3452 or drop in to my Electorate Office at 125 Brisbane Rd, Booval.