



Electorate Office
125 Brisbane Road

Telephone
07 3202 3452

Email
ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au

Postal Address
PO Box 98, Booval Q 4304

Facsimile
07 3202 4778

Web
www.rachelnolanmp.com

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Call for care and courtesy

With more bikes on the roads this Bike Week motorists and cyclists are reminded to share the road and look out for each other.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said cyclists and motorists were legitimate road users and as such, they should be careful and courteous towards one another.

"Above all, they should all understand the traffic rules for on-road bike lanes," Ms Nolan said.

"Motorists overtaking cyclists must leave at least one metre between the passenger side of their vehicle and the cyclist.

"Compared with a car or a truck a cyclist is completely unprotected and extremely vulnerable. If drivers get any closer than one metre, cyclists are buffeted in the motor vehicle's wake.

"Cyclists should use bike lanes where provided, staying as far left in the lane as possible. They must always follow the road rules and obey traffic signs and signals."

Ms Nolan said that in addition to the obstacles faced by motorists, cyclists had to avoid obstacles such as potholes, car doors, grates and broken glass that at times meant they briefly occupied an entire lane.

Bike week began last Saturday and finishes next Sunday.

Motorists should keep an eye out for cyclists, especially in their cars blind spot.

"They should always signal their intentions, especially when turning, and take care not to cut cyclists off when turning," Ms Nolan said.

"For their part cyclists must wear a correctly-fitted, Australian Standards-approved helmet."

During 2007 there were 10 cyclist fatalities as a result of crashes in Queensland.

For Information about cycling safety and road rules for bicycles visit the Queensland Transport website at www.transport.qld.gov.au/cycling.