



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC14176

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

14 JUL 2005

Mr Michael Yeates
7 Marston Avenue
Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Dear Mr Yeates

Re: Road Safety for Cyclists

Thank you for your email of 11 May 2005 to The Honourable Peter Beattie MP, Premier and Minister for Trade concerning road safety for cyclists. As you would be aware, your letter was forwarded to the Honourable Paul Lucas MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his consideration and reply. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Improving cyclist safety is a key objective of the *Queensland Cycle Strategy* (QCS) released by the Government in October 2003. The vision of the strategy is 'more cycling' with the aim to make Queensland a State where riding a bike is safe and convenient, and where choosing to cycle is respected, supported and encouraged by all areas of the Government and community. The QCS addresses the achievement of long term, sustainable changes in travel behaviour and increased levels of cycling in our communities and also includes objectives to develop safer and connected cycle network facilities that cater for the needs of all types of cyclists.

Queensland Transport (QT) works cooperatively and productively with state and local government agencies to provide high quality cycling infrastructure both on and off road. The *Integrated Regional Cycle Network Plan for South East Queensland*, which was completed in 2003, is being progressively implemented by Main Roads and local governments in the region. The Government has recently announced as part of the *South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program* that \$200 million will be invested into developing this regional network over the next twenty years. Implementation of this plan will result in the creation of on and off road environments that positively provide for all transport modes thereby minimising user conflict.

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In response to the issue raised about sentencing, under Queensland's transport legislation, persons who use vehicles (including bicycles) dangerously or without due care and attention or consideration for other road users are committing an offence. This offence carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment. Such dangerous operation of a vehicle is also an offence under the *Criminal Code*. Here, offenders are subject to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment, depending upon the circumstances of the incident. Clearly, these provisions are designed to encourage all vehicle drivers to behave responsibly on Queensland's roads.

The Minister appreciates that in an accident involving a motor vehicle with a cyclist, the cyclist is likely to suffer more damage and injury. However, the Minister also believes the current legislation effectively reinforces the requirement of all road users to be responsible for their conduct on our roads and road-related areas. These existing penalties are appropriate to deter irresponsible road user behaviour and support road safety outcomes.

QT will continue to monitor the causes of traffic accidents and developments throughout Australia and overseas. This research will ensure that legislation, enforcement and public education strategies are as effective as possible in addressing road safety issues.

In response to your query about the Premier replying to messages left at Parliament House, unfortunately the water bottles you left with security at the Annex entry were not delivered as intended. Security placed the bottles in a bag for delivery and it would appear that cleaning staff mistook the bag for waste and disposed of them. Parliament House security have apologised for this mishap.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, please call Mr Andy Stewart, Land Transport and Safety Division on (07) 3253 4196, who will be happy to help you.

Yours sincerely



BRONWYN SMITH
Senior Advisor