

Our ref: MC55185_Interim

Mr Paul French
Co-convenor
Central Business District Bicycle User Group
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23 MAR 2011

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Rachel Nolan MP, former Minister for Transport, about the review performed by the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland of current national and international evidence on bicycle helmet use. As you may be aware, the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, has recently been appointed as Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs. The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf.

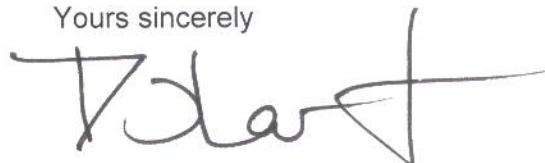
The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to improving the safety of cyclists throughout Queensland. In 1991, as a result of a nationally agreed policy framework, legislation was introduced in Queensland that requires bicycle riders to wear an approved, securely fitted and fastened bicycle helmet when cycling. This law was introduced to reduce head injuries among cyclists in the event of a crash.

The department acknowledges that there is ongoing discussion in the cycling and medical communities regarding the benefits of compulsory helmet wearing legislation. In response to the growing interest in this topic, the department commissioned the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland to undertake a thorough investigation of national and international evidence on helmet wearing. The team that conducted this investigation was led by Professor Narelle Haworth, Professor in Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation, supported by several prominent researchers.

The department is currently working with the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland to finalise the report. A copy of the final report will be sent to you once it is available.

If you require further information in the meantime, please call Ms Vicky Meyer, Principal Policy Advisor, on 3253 4266. Ms Meyer will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



David Stewart
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads