

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Monday, 3 October 2022

MOTORISTS URGED TO SHARE THE ROAD THIS RIDING SEASON

The Andrews Labor Government is urging Victorian drivers and motorcyclists to look out for each other and share the roads safely, with the number of motorbikes on the roads expected to increase as the weather warms up.

Marking the inaugural *Motorcyclist Awareness Month*, spearheaded by Victoria's Motorcycling Community Engagement Panel (MCEP), Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll said the initiative had been developed in collaboration with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Department of Transport and Victoria Police.

The month aims to remind motorists that road safety is a shared responsibility and that everyone has a role to play in keeping the roads safe.

Traditionally, motorbike rider travel increases during the warmer and daylight savings months, with more recreational riders on the roads. The increase in rider numbers and distances travelled brings a greater risk of crashes involving motorbikes.

It is critical that drivers are always on the lookout for people on motorbikes, while riders can improve their safety ensuring they are visible through safe road positioning and wearing the appropriate protective gear on every ride.

Over half of the 42 motorcyclist fatalities on Victorian roads this year have occurred in collisions with other vehicles, reinforcing the importance of sharing the roads.

Throughout October, Victorians will see and hear about *Motorcyclist Awareness Month* through radio, outdoor signage, and events at a number of local markets and at the Australian Moto GP at Phillip Island.

Already this year, the TAC has launched two separate campaigns promoting motorcyclist safety and the importance of riders wearing protective clothing each time they get on their bike.

The Labor Government continues to invest in programs, campaigns and infrastructure aimed at improving motorcycle safety in the short and long term, including the Moto-CAP motorcycle protective clothing star rating system.

Visit the *Motorcyclist Awareness Month* Facebook page for more information.

Quote attributable to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll

"Whether we are on two wheels or four, whether it's our daily commute or a road trip, we all need to look out for each other every time we use the road."

Quote attributable to TAC Head of Road Safety Samantha Cockfield

"People on motorbikes are more vulnerable in a crash as they don't have the same protection as other motor vehicles. More riders should not inevitably result in more crashes and if we all look out for one another and be patient, we'll go a long way toward reducing road trauma."

Quote attributable to Motorcycling Community Engagement Panel Member Brian Rix

"Motorcyclist Awareness Month is an opportunity for all of us in the riding community to have a conversation with other road users about how we can share the road and do a better job of keeping everyone safe."

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