



Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Wednesday, 10 November 2004

CYCLING SAFETY

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (10.26 a.m.): I rise to express the concern of many in my community in relation to the treatment by a small minority of people of cyclists. We encourage people to get out and enjoy nature and to ride to work, ride for recreation or ride for competition. It has been reported by police that cyclists have been spat on, pelted with fruit and forced off the road. Some drivers engage in what is called 'skimming', where a driver misses a cyclist by about three or four inches. The concern that has been expressed by some of the long-term riders in my electorate has been that one day this skimming will result in a cyclist being clipped and the accident will be very serious. It appears that it is caused by people who are annoyed when they are held up by cyclists. They feel angry because they obviously cannot sit on the speed limit.

I remind members of the community that cyclists, both recreational and professional, are a necessary part of our travelling public and they deserve behaviour and courtesies that are extended to all other road users. I, like many members in this House, could not imagine the mentality of people engaging in such reprehensible behaviour. I call on all members of the public to view road users—riders, pedestrians and vehicles—with courtesy and with patience.