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MEDIA RELEASE

Last hopeful of Fatality Free Friday

Member for Burdekin, Dale Last, has urged residents of the electorate to play their part in Fatality Free Friday this year.

The nationwide initiative is aimed at reducing road trauma over the longer term and, as the name suggests, preventing any fatalities on Friday, May 25th.

"As a police officer I saw the effects of road trauma and there aren't many people in the community whose families haven't been effected in some way so it's an important day for us all," Mr Last said.

"Our vehicles are getting safer each year but we are still seeing people hurt and killed on the road so we need to start focussing on our actions as one of the big causes."

Organisers of Fatality Free Friday are asking drivers to play their part by pledging to:

- Being fit to drive
- Staying focused on the road
- Scanning the road ahead
- Keeping a safe distance, and
- Driving to suit the conditions

"Being fit to drive is about avoiding drugs and alcohol as well as not driving tired," he said.

"We have seen distractions to drivers cause a lot of problems so staying focused is about ignoring phone calls and other temptations that might affect your concentration."

Mr Last said driver attitude could also play a big part in making the roads safer.

"We all get frustrated from time to time on the road by other drivers or road conditions or just from having a bad day," Mr Last said.

"Sometimes you need to just pause for a moment and refocus on what you are doing rather than getting frustrated or angry."

People wanting to know more or make a pledge to road safety can do so at www.fatalityfreefriday.com.

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