



Mareeba cyclist Rodney Miller continues to struggle with ongoing medical issues after being hit by a truck nearly a year ago. He urges the community to take the road safety pledge ahead of Fatality Free Friday, on May 29. Picture: Andrea Falvo

## Road safety pledge

**Andrea Falvo**

A MAREEBA cyclist hit by a truck while riding urges the community to take the pledge of road safety as part of the national campaign, Fatality Free Friday, on May 29.

Rodney Miller was hit by a truck almost 12 months ago when out on his daily cycle.

Mr Miller continues to suffer ongoing neck pain and limited rotation and requires injections every two weeks to help with the pain.

"The truck hit me and completely knocked me off my bike," he said.

"I'm lucky the driver stopped otherwise it would have had a different ending.

"My body kind of shut down and I don't remember the whole thing.

"I had lights on my bike and everything necessary for him to notice me."

Mr Miller has been an active man from a young age and he found his new limitations frustrating.

He said limited bike lanes and lack of awareness between road users and cyclists were a major concern.

"Within a week I was back on the bike," Mr Miller said.

"I didn't want to leave it too long. It's important to raise awareness between other road users, motorcycles and cyclists.

"I love being out riding, but we just need to make it safer."

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers senior associate, Tanya Straguszi, said in the last five months national fatality figures had already surpassed 2014's annual figures.

"Road safety is something all of us need to take responsibility for, not just in ensuring our own safety on the road, but the safety of all road users," she said.

"Sadly, road accidents can happen in an instant.

"But the effects of these can last a lifetime — not just for the individuals involved, but their friends and family as well.

"Already this year in the Far North there have been more than 20 road fatalities, which is more than at the same point in time last year."

Ms Straguszi urged the community to get behind the national initiative aimed at reducing road fatalities by taking the pledge this year for Fatality Free Friday.

A giant inflatable car will be set up at the Rotary FNQ Field Days next week for anyone wanting to sign the pledge of road safety. It can be found at the Department of Transport and Main Roads exhibition, at site J1 and J2.

You can take the pledge online at [www.fatalityfreefriday.com.au](http://www.fatalityfreefriday.com.au)