

## MEDIA RELEASE

October 3, 2018

### **Stay safe during magpie breeding season**

Pedestrians and cyclists will be relieved to learn Council has received fewer swooping magpie reports this year, but it is still important that our community take precautions.

Council warns residents of swooping zones through signage at the location and on its website at [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/swooping-magpie-hotspots](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/swooping-magpie-hotspots)

Known swooping hotspots this season include approaches to the Hanson and Red Rover Road roundabout and near the Mater Hospital along Rosella Street.

Cyclists and pedestrians can protect themselves by:

- Where possible finding an alternative route to avoid the hotspot
- Wearing sunglasses
- If walking, wearing a broad-brimmed hat or using an umbrella
- If cycling, dismounting and walking through the defensive zone
- Travelling in groups, where possible

It is important not to react aggressively if swooped by a magpie as it can make them more hostile.

The public are also reminded that magpies, and other potential swoopers like butcher birds and crows, are native species and it is an offence to harm, interfere or relocate them without authorisation.

While being the receiver of a swooping attack can be alarming, these animals play important an ecological role in our urban environments, and the attacks only last six to eight weeks.

To report a swooping bird incident to Council, visit its website or contact 4970 0700 during business hours.