

## WORLD CAR-FREE DAY - 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER



Every September 22, people from around the world get together in the streets and neighbourhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society. But we do not want just one day of celebration and then a return to "normal" life. It is up to us, it is up to our cities, and our governments to help create permanent change to benefit pedestrians, cyclists, and other people who do not drive cars.

Let World Car-free Day be a showcase for just how our cities might look like, feel like, and sound like without cars...365 days a year. As the climate heats up, World Car-free Day is the perfect time to take the heat off the planet, and put it on city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport, instead of to the automobile.

On the Gold Coast people make about 1.5 million trips per day and have a high dependence on motor vehicles. We need to encourage modes of transport that don't harm the global and local environment by consuming fossil fuels and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, while providing efficient and socially equitable access around our City for residents, visitors and businesses.

Cars are the main source of greenhouse gas emissions on the Gold Coast – almost 90% of vehicles registered in 2005 run on petrol and another 8% run on diesel.

The Gold Coast City Transport Plan, which is currently under review, has seven strategic objectives:

1. Quality public transport
2. Co-ordinated land use and transport systems
3. Moderated travel demand growth
4. Attractive non-motorised transport
5. A safe and efficient road system
6. Efficient freight and air transport operations to support economic development
7. An integrated, socially just and environmentally responsible transport system

Recently Gold Coast City Council met with companies from around the world to present their expressions of interest with regard to renting bicycles, within the "Community Bike Scheme". This scheme has federal government support and funding for the infrastructure needed. For more information go to: [http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t\\_standard.aspx?pid=7000](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t_standard.aspx?pid=7000)

**Further reading:** "Green Vehicle Guide" 629.2538 AUS; available now in Gecko library