

# Stonnington Leader

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NEWS

## Push for scooter parks

CHRISTINE ANTONIOU

DEMAND for designated parks for scooters is growing as more Stonnington residents swap four wheels for two.

Stonnington councillor Tas Athanasopoulos said car parks should cater for scooters and motorbikes to cope with the growing demand.

Cr Athanasopoulos suggested designated parks at stations, cafes and shopping centres to help to prevent footpaths becoming overcrowded.

"They are so popular now that the council should look at introducing designated parks," he said.

"Maybe we could look at the Cato St car park as the spaces are not always all used.

"But you have to be careful, because if we designate spots in the wrong area we could lose car park spots."

Scooters and motorbikes can legally park on footpaths if they are not obstructing anything. But Cr Sarah Davies said the law needed to be made clearer for scooter owners.

Scooter owner Ali Johnston, who rides from her Toorak home to her Prahran Market business, Fritz Gelato, said designated areas would save "some anguish".



All Johnston wants parking spaces reserved for scooters.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN. N35MP107

"Sometimes I'm not sure where to park because I don't want to take up a car spot for one little scooter," Ms Johnston said.

"When you take your learner's, there is no information about where to park so it is absolutely confusing.

"I think it's sensible and logical

to have designated areas and there wouldn't be any confusion."

Melbourne Bicycle Centre manager Kathy Ramaekers said sales of electric scooters, which cost just under \$1000, had soared at the Prahran shop.

Sales had increased by up to 50 per cent since the price of petrol

jumped two years ago, Ms Ramaekers said.

"It varies, but last weekend we sold six scooters," she said.

"We have high-density living so a lot of people don't have two car parks at home.

They are a cheap alternative and clean for the environment."