

Make Victorian roads safe!

We don't have to follow the rules and fashion of other states and countries.

We started seat belts, and now see where we are.

Cars have become **fashion** symbols whose styling and colours are driven by wealthy motorists and car manufacturers, whereas they are in fact **deadly** but useful machines.

As a regular pedestrian and less-regular motorist, my recommendations are:

1. Ban all cars that are the same colour as our roads – “camouflage cars”.
2. Ban window tinting in the front driver and passenger side windows.
3. Make the shape of cars safe. Ban “pedestrian cutters”.
4. Make it illegal to hold anything that is not part of the car while driving – “Look Mum – no hands”.
5. Police the massive fast B-double trucks on our roads – “Sports trucks”. Stop the speeding and tail-gating. Police and penalise this.

In more detail:

1. **Car colour.** Any sensible person would surely agree that it is crazy to allow cars to be exactly the same colour as our road surfaces. This is particularly so where the streets or roads are overshadowed with trees, such as Mont Albert Road, and many of our country highways. I have experienced this as a pedestrian where I just didn't see the car coming until nearly too late, and as a motorist, trying to overtake another car and not seeing a camouflaged car coming the other way. A rough count of parked cars in my vicinity is about a quarter dark grey cars – very popular, but very dangerous! See photos below.
2. **Window tinting.** It is legal for the front side windows of cars to be tinted to 35% light transmission, but **recommended** that it not be below 70%. There is no point in recommending anything, since no one takes any notice. It **must** be a rule. Most cars in my area have these windows heavily tinted so that, as a pedestrian I cannot see the driver of a car at a T-intersection sitting in his black cocoon, so I don't know if he's seen me. I cannot even see him waving me across! Surely as a motorist, it is vital to be able to see out the side windows at a T-intersection, and the vital external rear-vision mirrors are also effectively tinted to 35%.
3. **Car profile.** After years of cars having rounded fronts in the name of pedestrian safety, now many manufacturers are introducing models with very square, aggressive fronts, and especially models having bonnets that stick out in front of the radiator opening, forming a “knife blade” to cut pedestrians in half. The worst one is the Mazda CX-5 (see picture), but many other models and brands are following suit. We should not have to accept these dangerous cars that are becoming more and more popular. They just grease through the limits placed by the Australian Design Rules. It's time to fix this.

4. **Drivers holding foreign objects.** Of course there are drivers playing with mobile phones because no one polices it. Now there is the new problem of drivers holding and drinking from coffee cups while driving, even while turning corners (“Look Mum, no hands!”). There needs to a stop put to drivers holding anything that is not part of the car. Where are the police? I never see them. And while we’re at it, ban distracting objects hanging from rear-view mirrors
5. **Fast trucks.** When I drive on multi-lane roads I observe that the fastest vehicles are the trucks driving in the far-right lane (Eastlink!). And the bigger and heavier the truck, the faster it is going. They exceed the speed of all the other cars (“Sports trucks”), and somehow know what they can get away with. And if they are not in the right lane, they are tail-gating cars. Again, no police! No wonder there are deadly accidents involving trucks. They need to be policed. This is not a matter of training, but penalties.

Camouflage Colour Car Collections (but rounded fronts)



Aggressive Pedestrian Mangler

