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**From:** Inquiry into Overtaking Bicycles POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 22 March 2016 3:43 PM  
**To:** LCLC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015

Ms Georgie Fyfe-Jamieson  
[REDACTED]

President  
Port Phillip Bicycle User Group  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Port Phillip Bicycle User Group is a local community group comprising 45 current Members plus many Supporters. We are bike riders and as a group we advocate for better cycling conditions and run regular social bike rides.

We welcome the Victorian Parliament's Economy and Infrastructure Committee inquiry into passing distance laws. Port Phillip BUG supports the introduction of minimum passing laws.

Queensland, South Australia, ACT already have minimum passing laws. There has also been a recent trial in New South Wales. It is time for Victoria to have this law in place. These laws already exist in countries in Europe and in 29 states in the US.

Cycling is a practical form of transportation, and should be encouraged. More cyclists on the road mean fewer motor vehicles which means less pollution and congestion. Cyclists also need to feel safe whilst travelling. Cyclists do not have a physical 'shell' like a car driver does, and therefore should be protected from motorists passing too close. For example, when the roads have potholes or broken glass, or if riding into a headwind or uphill, a cyclist may move slightly within a lane. If during this time a motorist is passing, it can be very unsafe and extremely intimidating. To have the extra 'buffer' space would ensure a more safe and comfortable ride – and would make riding a more attractive option for more. We understand that over 1 in 10 of all bicycle rider crashes in Victoria involved a vehicle overtaking a cyclist – this should not be the case.

It is clear that some drivers are not aware of the dangers of passing too close, because they judge the distances and speed poorly or do not understand the space that cyclists need to ride safely. Port Phillip BUG believes that it would be ideal, to, at the same time as introducing this new law, run an education campaign to highlight the importance of driver awareness of cycling and how to appropriately share the road.

It also seems that some drivers do not realise that a bicycle is a legal vehicle and therefore legitimate road users. To have a minimum passing law in place would make it clear that bicycles are also legal vehicles and that cyclists have the right to a safe space. It would also reduce bicycle rider fatalities and serious injuries.

Port Phillip BUG recommends that the law ensures drivers are required to give 1m when passing a cyclist where the speed is 60kmp/h or less, or 1.5m where the speed is over 60kmp/h.

Finally we would like to acknowledge the work that has been done by the Amy Gillett Foundation on 'A Metre Matters Campaign' in recent times. Research shows that a metre matters campaign is working in promoting behaviour change, and that cyclists feel safer. Supporting legislation would be welcomed.

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File1:

File2:

File3: