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From: Inquiry into Overtaking Bicycles POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2016 11:00 AM
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

Wmr Paul Garry
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Sir

I cycle to work daily and, on weekends, I cycle for recreation. This, combined with having cycled regularly for the last 50+ years, has allowed me to observe a steady deterioration in the general level of safety afforded to cyclists in Victoria.

In 2005, despite cycling very close to the kerb on King Street in Melbourne, I was struck by a passing motorist. I was thrown to the ground and suffered a serious injury requiring me to be taken to the accident department at the Alfred hospital. Since then, I am frequently shocked and frightened by drivers that pass their vehicles too close to me as I cycle.

Accordingly, I strongly support the introduction of minimum passing distances in Victoria in keeping with similar laws introduced in other Australian states and territories, such as Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania.

I believe a significant education campaign is urgently needed to inform motorists of the importance, and hopefully legal requirement, to allow 1 metre when passing cyclists at less than 60 kph and 1.5m when passing cyclists at greater than 60 kph.

I would like to see significant fines imposed on motorists that are not adhering to this. Education is important and so is community word of mouth. It's important motorists are aware that penalties are applied without exception for failing to meet minimum passing distances. Fines should also be imposed without exception on vehicle drivers where video evidence of contravention is provided from cyclists.

I believe the current means of advertising that motorists and cyclists should "share the road" is dangerously misleading. Too often motorists interpret this to mean that a single lane can be "shared" i.e. It's acceptable to

squeeze past a cyclist regardless of how close the vehicle has to pass by that cyclist. This signage must be changed urgently to indicate that "cyclists are entitled to occupy a lane". With this of course, rules regarding passing across double lines (to allow a vehicle to pass cyclists with suitable separation is possible when safe to do) must also be changed.

It is important that new laws are enacted to improve the safety on Victorian roads for all road users, but most particularly for cyclists who are undoubtedly our most vulnerable road users and those in most need of improved protection.

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File1:

File2:

File3: