

[REDACTED]

From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Christopher Holberton via Australian Greens
<office@greens.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 March 2016 10:30 AM
To: LCLC
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles)
Bill 2015

This e-mail has been sent on behalf of Mr Christopher Holberton, at [REDACTED].
They can be contacted by phone at [REDACTED] or by e-mail at [REDACTED]. The content
of their submission is below.

+++++

I support safe passing distance laws for cars and trucks overtaking bicycles, so we can all share the road safely. It is a no brainer as it will save countless lives.

When bike riding is safer, more people will leave their cars at home. This will mean better health, better mental health, less congestion on our roads and less pollution. If Melbourne and other Australian cities want to be world class then better cycling infrastructure is a must. There is no reason for so many people to drive to work alone in their cars when there are alternatives. Of course some people have to drive but many could ride a bicycle or get public transport.

I agree with the Committee's decision to look at the examples of Queensland, ACT and Tasmania where safe passing laws have been introduced, or are being trialled, and how to run a public education campaign about the rule change.

When the new mobile phone rules came in, most drivers learned the rule quickly because it was in the news. An education campaign is more effective when it tells drivers a new road rule. I believe a new campaign that highlights the dangers of texting or checking Instagram could also be tied in with this. Many times I have been almost hit by drivers on their phones and not concentrating.

We are all in this together. There is no 'us' and 'them', safe passing distance laws make our roads safer for everyone. Let's all agree to stop using the words "cyclist" and "motorist". We are simply just people who ride bikes or drive cars and the vast majority of bike riders are motorists as well.