



Yarra Bicycle Users Group - Submission to Economy and Infrastructure Committee Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015

[Yarra Bicycle Users Group](#) (YarraBUG) support safe passing distance laws for vehicles overtaking bicycles in the state of Victoria.

YarraBUG is a community voluntary organisation located in the inner north suburbs of Melbourne; Abbotsford, Alphington, Burnley, Carlton North, Clifton Hill, Cremorne, Collingwood, Fairfield, Fitzroy, Fitzroy North, Princes Hill and Richmond. We advocate and network for improved cycling and sustainable transport initiatives.

With [9.97% of residents who ride daily](#), Yarra has the highest proportion of people who cycle to work in Australia. More than two in every five residents walk, cycle or catch public transport to go to work.

Since 2008, YarraBUG has broadcast a [weekly 30 minute radio program](#) and podcast on [3CR 855am Community Radio](#) with hundreds interviews on a range of diverse bicycle issues such as advocacy, women's and children's participation, cycle touring, films, events, politics, bicycle industry, infrastructure and Australian cycling issues.

We agree with the Economy and Infrastructure Committee decision to investigate the examples of [Queensland](#), [ACT](#), [South Australia](#) 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.

NSW recently introduced the [Go Together campaign](#) (1 March 2016) that included minimum passing laws - with a catch that bicycle riders must carry photo identification. This is blatantly cyclist registration by stealth and serves to invariably marginalise cycling with punitive measures.

We strongly advice the Victoria State Government NOT to consider including these restrictive measures in regards to carrying photo ID, with all its unintended consequences.

Many riders in Melbourne's inner suburbs can no doubt attest to being passed too closely by vehicle drivers being inattentive, distracted or unfortunately ignorant of their actions upon bicycle riders.

A minimum passing law in Victoria will serve to strengthen the legal right of bicycle riders as road users.

Additional minimum passing distance regulations

- European Cyclists' Federation: [Victory for cycling in Portugal: Government approves new road code](#)
- National Conference of State Legislatures (US): [Safely Passing Bicyclists Chart](#)
- Bike League (US): [Model Safe Passing Law](#)

As our urban population is booming in Australia, additional measures must be implemented for sustainable transport. Riding for transport has gradually gained in participation in the previous decade but more action is required immediately from all three levels of Australian government to improve public safety perceptions and infrastructure investment deficit for cycling to rise from [its relatively current low base](#).

Thank you,

Chris Star and Steven Barnett
Co-convenors, Yarra Bicycle Users Group

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Links:

1. <http://www.yarrabug.org/>
2. http://bikeaccount.com.au/#/?p=lga&l=27350&lds=LGA_ModeShare_All&ls=true
3. <http://www.yarrabug.org/radio>
4. <http://www.3cr.org.au/>
5. <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/other/cyclists/>
6. http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/rattenbury/2015/new-cycling-rules-to-be-trialled-from-november
7. <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/transport-travel-and-motoring/cycling/cyclist-road-rules-and-safety>
8. <http://www.rsac.tas.gov.au/road-safety/distance-matters/>
9. <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/go-together/>
10. <https://ecf.com/news-and-events/news/victory-cycling-portugal-government-approves-new-road-code>
11. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/safely-passing-bicyclists.aspx>
12. <http://bikeleague.org/content/model-safe-passing-law-0>
13. <http://www.bicyclecouncil.com.au/publication/national-cycling-participation-survey-2015>