

Dear Sir/Madam

**A metre matters** – support minimum overtaking distance legislation in Victoria

As a Victorian cyclist with 50+ years of riding in rural Victoria attending school, working in Melbourne and travelling in SE Australia, I am calling on you to support the introduction of minimum overtaking distance – **a metre matters** – laws in Victoria.

The current Victorian road rules require drivers to allow *sufficient* distance when overtaking a bicycle rider. *Sufficient* is vague and subjective and, as I found over many years of cycling, has not lead to making it safer for bicycle riders.

As you are probably aware across Australia five jurisdictions have implemented **a metre matters** - South Australia has mandated these laws, Queensland, the ACT and New South Wales are trialling the laws, and some road rules have been amended in Tasmania to reflect **a metre matters**.

I believe that implementing **a metre matters** legislation is a logical and practical step to changing driver behaviour, and provides an *objective* measure for law enforcement.

I also support the Amy Gillett Foundation's '**a metre matters**' campaign and urge you to support the introduction of **a metre matters** laws in Victoria.

I believe that **a metre matters** laws provide absolute, practical and enforceable clarity for all road users. These laws:

- Recognise that bicycle riders are physically vulnerable and need the protection of space
- Provide drivers with a clear, easily recognised measure when overtaking bicycle riders – otherwise they must slow down and wait
- Reduce the risk of bicycle rider-driver crashes, and bicycle rider crashes resulting from being side-swiped (but not hit) by motor vehicles
- Are enforceable; they allow a law enforcement officer or witness to readily observe a driver's actions
- Will improve safety for bicycle riders
- Acknowledge bicycle riders are legitimate road users
- Will ultimately reduce bicycle rider fatalities and serious injuries.

I believe that **the 'A metre matters'** initiative is innovative in its simplicity and immediacy. Better infrastructure is critical for safe cycling but we cannot afford to wait for safe cycling infrastructure to be built. The law is practical, enforceable, will reduce serious injuries and will save bicycle riders' lives.

I urge you to support the introduction of **a metre matters** laws in Victoria without delay.

Sincerely,

Kaye E. Trainor  
01/04/2016  
Melbourne