

[REDACTED]

From: Meg A'Hearn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 April 2016 3:45 PM
To: LCLC
Subject: Safe passing laws

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you as a member of Bicycle Network in regard to the parliament of Victoria considering legislating for 1/1.5m passing distance for vehicles when they pass cyclists.

I would like to make very clear that the submission by Bicycle Network does not represent my experience or my views.

In particular, I would like to make clear that I strongly disagree with Bicycle Network's exemption clause in section 5.3. I believe it is absolutely vital to have a national standard of 1/1.5m passing distance and if Victoria were to make the exemptions put forward by Bicycle Network, riders' safety will be put at risk.

It is beyond my comprehension that anyone would consider exempting school zones - are children's lives of less value than adults?

It is also nonsensical to exempt areas where there are bike lanes. Bike lanes do not offer cyclists any protection or safety - in fact it in Melbourne it is often necessary for cyclists to ride in the far right-hand side of a bike lane, very close to the painted white line, in order to avoid the 'dooring' zone on the left. I would say that, rather than exempting bike lanes from the passing distance laws, they should be made a priority as they are often the streets/roads that councils recommend cyclists use.

I have recently returned from a holiday in South Australia and have seen first-hand how the new passing laws are changing driver behaviour and making cycling far safer.

Kind regards,
Meg A'Hearn