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From: Inquiry into Overtaking Bicycles POV eSubmission Form
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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

Mr Andrew Tytherleigh
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Yes to awareness raising. The campaign by the Amy Gillett Foundation has done much to raise the issue of the safer use of a shared resource and this is to be applauded.

But no to making a road rule that would make it mandatory for cars to give a metre's clearance between them and cyclists. No point in having rules that are essentially unenforceable and in some cases impossible to achieve - Look at Docklands where some bright spark decided that putting in smaller roads with limited parking and raised tram tracks would somehow help traffic flow - and as a result, a vehicle had no room to pass a cyclist at all.

What works for cyclists and cars alike are bike lanes and signs reminding others that we share the road. Spend money on infrastructure where you can, spend money on signs where you can't. What gets people's attention is seeing cyclists on the road and in my opinion, the attitude of drivers (many of whom are cyclists no doubt) is generally respectful and they treat you with courtesy.

Cyclists don't own the road, we are sharers with others and as such we need to respect other road user's rights as well. Part of the problem of mandating some arbitrary rule is that those car drivers who are already antipathetic toward cyclists will just have their sense of injustice reinforced and it is entirely likely that they will never change their attitude.

Cycling is about freedom from traffic jams and the rat race but we don't need a nanny state to protect us. And we don't need rules that are penalise drivers who can't meet the requirement in many situations anyway.

The Victorian Road rules already deem that users have to operate in a responsible manner and if you want to look at beefing up that section of the road rules for deliberate acts of aggression and road rage then I would support that. Otherwise focus on educating all road users to "Share the Road".