

From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Alan Tonkin via Australian Greens
<office@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2016 6:05 PM
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 Alan Tonkin, at [REDACTED]. They can be contacted by phone at [REDACTED] or by e-mail at [REDACTED]. The content of their submission is below.

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I support safe passing distance laws for cars and trucks overtaking bicycles, so we can all share the road safely.

When bike riding is safer, more people will leave their cars at home. This will mean better health, less congestion on our roads and less pollution.

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.

We are all in this together. There is no 'us' and 'them', safe passing distance laws make our roads safer for everyone.

I have no data but all I know is, with 12 years of annual bike touring in Europe (on a fixie and tandem for 1000s of Ks) in some 13 countries and in thru some of its biggest cities plus riding a couple of Paris-Brest-Paris, by comparison riding a bike in Oz (up 15,000km per year) is positively scary due to the attitude/behaviour of other road users.

As part of a suite of behaviour change initiatives such as Vulnerable Road Users Legislation, lower city speed limits, Sharrows and the like, A Metre Matters will play an important part in changing road use behaviour.

IMHO Too much emphasis is being placed on Separation as opposed to Sharing. Most will never get a Separated facility running by their front door and will have to Share. Many current Separated facilities are more scary than back streets with high speed lycra strava injected warriors, walkers, runners, dogs, inexperienced pelotons of wandering old folk and now supped up ebikes with riders at speeds way beyond their peddling bike handling skill level. Many are narrow winding and congested.

Per head of population Oz must have more bike racks than any other nation. Why?

It doesn't make sense if bike riding is meant to be a natural part of life.

Change behaviour. Grow up as a Nation. Share the road.

Thanks for your time.