

**From:** office@greens.org.au on behalf of Elise Gould via Australian Greens  
<office@greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 4 March 2016 7:19 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 Ms Elise Gould, 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.

Cycling is (by choice) my main mode of transport. I commute by bicycle to and from work, I mountain bike and road-cycle on the weekends for leisure, I cycle just about everywhere I can. It keeps me fit, healthy, and maintains my mental and emotional well being, too. I love cycling.

However, that's not to say that cycling on our roads is a completely safe and enjoyable way of getting around. I have been injured by motor vehicles in three separate accidents. My love for cycling, and my passion for environmentally friendly transport has motivated me to get back on the bike every time.

There are uncountable near-misses occurring almost every day I cycle that leave me feeling scared, frustrated and angry at drivers' ignorance of bicyclists rights and obligations on the road. Like that time last Tuesday morning on my way to work, when a car ran me into the gutter whilst overtaking. And that time two weeks ago where a car's mirror smashed into my elbow while overtaking. Thankfully I managed to maintain control of the bicycle. Others have not been so fortunate.

Although a seasoned and confident cyclist, there are certainly some roads I will not cycle on -- they are just far too dangerous for cyclists. I firmly believe introducing minimum passing distance laws will make bike riding safer, and should encourage more people to get out there and ride instead of drive. More people cycling will reduce air pollution and green house gas emissions, will result in less road congestion, and will reduce the burden of disease on the health care system by improving community levels of physical and emotional well-being.

I strongly support 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.

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