

From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Sarah Dowling via Australian Greens
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Sent: Friday, 4 March 2016 9:14 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 Dr Sarah Dowling, at [REDACTED]. They can be contacted by phone a [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.

As a cyclist, proximity to cars is my biggest safety concern. The only major accident involving a car I've experienced on my bike in 5 years occurred when I was sideswiped by a car who misjudged the distance between her car and me while overtaking me. If there was a law enforcing a 1 metre minimum buffer, she might not have attempted to overtake me at such close quarters and I would not have been injured.

Fear of repeating this experience often makes me think twice about cycling, especially on busy roads. 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.