

From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Ryan Akers via Australian Greens
<office@greens.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 March 2016 8:42 AM
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 Support of the Meter Matters Law Ryan Akers, 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, trucks and motorcycles overtaking bicycles, so we can all share the road safely.

When bicycle 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. The introduction of the meter laws in NSW are a good example of how not to introduce the meter laws; the majority of the media attention was devoted to the increase in fines for helmet and bell non-compliance, and the new requirement to carry identification when cycling.

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.

In addition to this, it has become apparent that the police have been reluctant to charge motorists with breaches of the meter law in states in which it has been introduced. I have seen numerous examples where video footage has been provided showing incidents that are clearly in breach of the law, yet nothing is done about it. It seems that a collision is required for action to be taken. I am absolutely in favour of the introduction of the meter law, but unless it is enforced, there is little point in enacting it.