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From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Stuart Lamble via Australian Greens
<office@greens.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 11 March 2016 12:48 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 Stuart Lamble, 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 am a cyclist, and a driver. As a cyclist, I have seen car drivers passing cyclists (both myself, and others) unsafely. I have also seen cyclists riding in an unsafe manner.

However, it must be understood and appreciated that cyclists are far more vulnerable than car drivers: whilst a mistake by a cyclist could - very likely - result in the cyclist's death, a mistake by a car driver is much more likely to only result in injury to the occupants of the vehicle. As such, it should behoove drivers to act with extra care around cyclists, providing them with more space than might be considered (by a non cyclist) to be necessary when passing them.

It should also be noted that because cyclists are typically travelling at much slower speeds than other road users, the time and distance required to safely pass is significantly less than that required to pass another motor vehicle. As such, it is not unreasonable to argue that many areas that are marked as illegal to pass (because there is not enough distance and visibility available to make that judgement about safe passing) could well be safe for motor vehicles to pass cyclists.

I look forward to law changes, and education campaigns, to help protect our more vulnerable road users, as well as enlightening all road users - motorists and cyclists alike - of their rights _and_ responsibilities on the roads.

I support the "minimum one metre passing distance" law proposal as a good start in this process.