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**From:** Inquiry into Overtaking Bicycles POV eSubmission Form  
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 March 2016 12:20 PM  
**To:** LCLC  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking Bicycles) Bill 2015

Mr. Michael Simon  
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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I have been a cyclist for around 44 years. In the early years of cycling, there were not nearly as many vehicles on the road and those that were, overtook leaving significant room between the car and my bike. As time has passed the amount of traffic has increased substantially as has the number of cyclists. In Europe where cycling has been a popular mode of travelling, since bikes were invented, the cycle is king of the road. Motor vehicles wait patiently behind a bicycle until there is plenty of room to do so. Likewise motorists give way to cyclists at roundabouts and when turning etc. In Victoria cycling has not been a major user on the roads until about 10 years ago. Now the number of cars and trucks have increased substantially, and the bitumen has become a battlefield. I like most cyclists ride close to the shoulder of the road in order to avoid any accidents. Regrettably I have have motor vehicles and trucks overtaking me where there is not sufficient room to do so. That requires me to get off the road, to avoid a collision. I have also been subject to trucks deliberately passing me and then turning in front of me forcing me off the road. It is my submission that motor vehicles should travel no closer than a metre when overtaking in the built up areas and on the open road that distance should be 1.5 metres. By passing legislation as to a minimum distance, drivers will be able to be prosecuted even if an accident does not occur. The current advertising of a metre is not enshrined in legislation, it is simply a recommendation. By legislating the minimum distance between cyclists and vehicles passing them, there is a known distance required. If it is not met the driver can and should in most circumstances be prosecuted. It is also my submission that once it is legislated, drivers will ensure they do not break the law by driving too close and there will be significantly less aggravation between cyclists and motorists.

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File1:

File2: