

From: office@greens.org.au on behalf of Brad Collis via Australian Greens
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Sent: Thursday, 17 March 2016 3:31 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 Mr Brad Collis, at [REDACTED]. They can be contacted by phone at [REDACTED] 2 or by e-mail at [REDACTED]. The content of their submission is below.

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As a life-long cyclist for sport and for commuting I ardently support safe passing distance laws for cars and trucks overtaking bicycles, so we can all share the road safely.

A metre does matter ... in fact in France and Italy where I have raced the law requires 1.5 metres, even on narrow country roads -- though drivers are much more cyclist friendly and patient.

Most motorists there ride a bike which demonstrates that 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 -- a massive economic and social boost.

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. It also has the benefit of making motorists more conscious of the presence of cyclists. Just about every driver who has hit a cyclist says they didn't see the rider ... it's a mental rather than physical blindness.

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