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From: Inquiry into Overtaking Bicycles POV eSubmission Form
<cso@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 17 March 2016 5:58 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. John OBrien
[REDACTED]

Bike rider
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To the review committee,

I am a cyclist who commutes to work and races for recreation and log beyond 10,000km per year on our roads. I now have a Son who as a Victorian Institute of Sport rider is going to Junior World championships in Switzerland this year. Our life is on bikes and on the road.

The situation in Victoria has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Our public transport is full, our roads are full and I have personally watched over the last 15 years, commute cycling go from a fringe minority fighting their own battles, to a Major form of transport that leaves most converts wondering why motorists have such hatred and will take such risk with our lives. We need this law to both reinforce that we are a legal form of transport, and have a right to be there, and that large powered vehicles are a threat when used aggressively against us. I transport our Baby daughter to childcare in a baby seat on a bike and can't begin to describe the behaviour that we experience when using a bike lane on a 4km trip, this law will be the catalyst to stop this behaviour.

In our sport of cycling, our future is always in the hands of our youth. Our young Men and Women who our society value so highly when winning Gold medals at World championships, Olympic and Commonwealth games, only get there from a life on bikes. We have personally witnessed in this last 12 months horrific injuries and a death to cyclists who haven't had an 18th Birthday yet. Cycling isn't going to go away, over crowded Cities will only push more people to commute, and the sporting scene will have a trickle down effect and this Cycling phenomenon in the modern age will continue. Only through Government bodies for law and infrastructure can we expect to create an environment that will foster this change. I strongly urge you to push for this 1-1.5 metre law now, as its flow on effects will enable better infrastructure and more people riding, better overall health moving people to a fitness based lifestyle and reduced stress in our transport systems. Many thanks for taking the time to read my submission. John O'Brien.

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