

Andy Sheats



3 Mar 2016

Dear Members of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee,

Please accept this personal submission in relation to your consideration of minimum passing legislation for bicycles.

I am calling on you to support the introduction of minimum overtaking distance laws in Victoria, as I have personally experienced in Queensland. 1m distance under 60 kph, and 1.5 in faster traffic zones.

The current Victorian road rules require drivers to allow *sufficient* distance when overtaking a bicycle rider. *Sufficient* is vague and subjective and has repeatedly not protected bicycle riders. Moreover, it is not enforced because police have said that it is subjective and doesn't stick.

Across Australia five jurisdictions have implemented **minimum passing distance laws**- South Australia has mandated these laws, Queensland, the ACT and New South Wales are trialling the laws, and some road rules have been amended in Tasmania to reflect **a metre matters**.

I have driven and ridden in each these jurisdictions before and after the changes. My experience has a rider has been that drivers are qualitatively more aware and bike friendly when they "know the rules" and the rules are clear. When I am on a bike, I am highly vulnerable to passing drivers. I have been hit, and it hurt me far more than the driver. I have lost friends due to passing vehicles, and to being rear-ended. On the other hand, my experience as a driver has been no material inconvenience, no reason to complain, an not problem at all. So why not?

Quantitative research shows that **a metre matters** is working in promoting behaviour change, and that cyclists feel safer. For more information, please go to: <http://www.amygillett.org.au/a-metre-matters>

Implementing **a metre matters** legislation is a logical and practical step to changing behaviour, and provides an *objective* measure for law enforcement.

I support the Amy Gillett Foundation's **a metre matters** campaign and urge you to support the introduction of **a metre matters** laws in Victoria without delay.

Sincerely,



Andy Sheats