

From:  
To: <rscc@parliament.vic.gov.au>  
Date: 18/10/2011 12:35 PM  
Subject: Road Safety Committee to hold Open Forum in Melbourne 18 October 2011

Unfortunately I was not aware that this inquiry was taking place this evening and I am unable to attend.

This is a topic which has been of interest to me for some time and I have tried without success to have my suggestions implemented. Basically, motor cycle riders can be, almost without exception and in contrast to cycle riders, not visible to car drivers by virtue of the dark colours worn. It is mandatory for police motor cyclists to wear bright vests and should be acceptable for all riders to do the same. It doesn't need necessarily to be made compulsory for public motor cycle riders but by virtue of publicity it should be made acceptable.

I have approached RACV with the idea of a feature showing photos side by side of a motor cyclists clothed in all black and next to him/her a rider with a luminous vest and light/bright helmet. The idea received a favourable reception but nothing happened. I have followed up when there have been articles in newspapers and again similar results.

I approached the Motor Riders Association and did not even receive the courtesy of a response. I spoke some time ago to the relevant police department. Again no positive result. I find no disagreement with anyone I have contacted but nothing happens. It has been impossible for me to make any progress. Hopefully this inquiry will bring forth some practical resolutions but I feel strongly that until motor cycle riders are not invisible to car drivers there will still be unnecessary fatalities and injuries.

Many years ago I had some influence in making bicycle helmets acceptable. My aim was not necessarily compulsory but at least acceptable. I organised by the then Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr Brian Dixon to wear a helmet into what was then *Bike into Spring* promotion. A photo of a prominent cyclist and his family featured in a newspaper advertisement did not show them wearing helmets. That was corrected or withdrawn at that time.

It seems to me that a campaign with well known people wearing luminous brightly coloured vests would go a long way in making at least some inroads into the safety of motor cycle riders.

I would ask that my name not be published in any way. However if anyone official from the inquiry would like to contact me I would be grateful for any feedback.