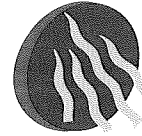




Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Member for Ipswich



**Queensland
Government**

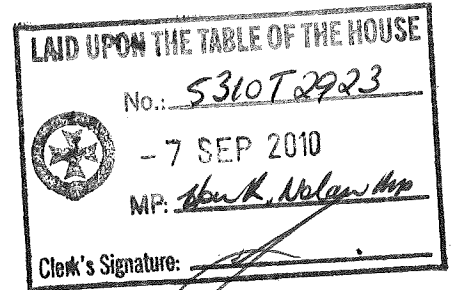
Our ref: MC51109

Your ref: Petitions

Minister for Transport

3 SEP 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to petition numbers 1407-10 and 1504-10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by Mrs Julie Attwood MP on 4 August 2010, about the minimum safe passing distance between cyclists and motorists.

In 1999 Queensland adopted the *Australian Road Rules* (ARR) into state legislation. This means that the road rules in all jurisdictions of Australia, including rules about the distance between cyclists and vehicles, are essentially uniform. The road traffic authorities in each state or territory must agree to any significant changes to the ARR in order to preserve that uniformity. Once the ARR have been amended, these changes are then incorporated in the legislation of each state and territory. In the case of Queensland, this is the *Queensland Road Rules* (QRR).

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that leaving a minimum of one metre clearance when passing a bicycle is a recommendation, not a rule. The QRR currently provide that a driver must not overtake a vehicle unless the driver can do so safely and that an overtaking driver must leave sufficient distance from another vehicle, including a bicycle, to avoid a collision.

The Bligh Government is passionately committed to getting more people cycling. We actively promote cycle safety through the Share the Road campaign and last year spend \$100m constructing bike paths around the state.

The introduction of a specific rule to restrict vehicles to keeping one metre from cyclists would be, in many cases, detrimental to cyclists. The safe distance between a cyclist and a vehicle varies considerably depending on the speed the vehicles are travelling. For example, where a vehicle is travelling at 100km/h a distance of one metre is dangerously close, but at very low speeds distances of less than one meter may be safe. To provide a law making a one metre distance mandatory would make it illegal for cyclists to move slowly and closely past queued vehicles. This is not a desired outcome for cyclists.

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As such, it is the department's desire to maintain consistency with the nationally agreed ARR. I am further advised that the department has no plans to amend the QRR to prescribe a specific minimum clearance for a motor vehicle passing a bicycle at this time.

If you require further information, please call Mr John Burrill, Senior Advisor (Transport Policy) in Road Safety System Management Division, on telephone 3253 4505. Mr Burrill will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Nolan', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

RACHEL NOLAN MP
Minister for Transport