

From: [Susan Malkinson](#)

To: Warrego@parliament.qld.gov.au

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 3:13 PM

Subject: Re: Cyclists

Dear Mr. Hobbs,

In regard to cyclists in Cairns I would like to contribute my input based on my observations.

While it is great to encourage cyclists to be out and about, my feelings are that no matter what safety campaigns you run and no matter what legislation you bring in, if cyclists continue to use main highways it will inevitably lead to a high percentage of deaths and disabilities due to the vulnerability inherent when a vehicle weighing tons collides with an unprotected cyclist. Bicycles after all come from a bygone era when there was little traffic on the road and much less speeds.

My thoughts are that the only way to protect cyclists is to introduce legislation requiring them to use off road bicycle pathways where and when available and when not available to ride single file.

At present we have spent many millions providing bicycle pathways that are largely ignored (even when they run close to the highway) and to make it worse we have spent more millions on roadways to try and improve the safety of cyclists at the expense of making it more hazardous for motorists.

Legislation to widen the passing distance of motorists to cyclists will not work because in many instances in Cairns there is only one lane of traffic each way. To overtake would mean crossing solid lines in many instances or slowing traffic down to cycle speed.

Obviously it is even worse for trucks who barely fit in a lane anyway and have great difficulty slowing down. Being stuck behind a cyclist for several km can only add to frustration for motorists and danger to cyclists.

My suggestion is that cyclists in the first instance should be discouraged from travelling on the highway in 80 km or more zones when there is a cycle lane available.

They should definitely not be allowed to travel two abreast as that just increases the problem and danger.

Cyclists should never enter a roundabout under any circumstances as they are not built for them and many vehicles are already maneuvering in a limited space. Also traffic turning left from a roundabout are in danger of colliding with cyclists going straight on. Sometimes it just isn't an option to brake and stop in a roundabout to let a cyclist go forward and sometimes they are not visible to the motorist due to blind spots. It is safer for them to walk their bike across when safe to do so.

Secondly off road cycle tracks should be improved (rather than on road bike lanes) and gradually extended as and when resources allow.

Such things as the iron man have brought increased tourism to Cairns but many people were severely disadvantaged because of road closures and traffic jams that caused many visitors to miss their flights and many locals to lose a weekend shift because they were unable to get to or from work.

I think better planning needs to be done and there should be at least one lane for traffic kept open at all times.

Ultimately The motorist has enough distractions on the road without adding to them and killing or injuring a cyclist affects everyone involved.

It can so easily be avoided if they will stick to the safe bike paths.

Regards,

Susan Malkinson