

I wish to advise the following in relation to the "metre matters" inquiry into cycling.

I have been a Constable (Traffic Officer) of Police for over 27 years and have been a competitive road cyclist for the past 7 years travelling on average a distance of 200 kilometres per week on the bicycle and 500 kilometres a week in the Police vehicle. I feel this gives me a greater insight into the facts of what happens on the road.

The Amy Gillette campaign of a metre matters and it's inclusion as a road rule would add to the safety of cyclists as it would make motorists take greater care when passing cyclists.

There are two main reasons why cyclists and motorists collide, as I know from many investigations into such events.

1: Motorists who do not cycle are not aware of the possible changes of direction of the cyclist. Some motorists pass closely to cyclists, for whatever reason. The motorist does not consider that the cyclist, no matter how accomplished, may at times need to adjust the course of the bicycle. Obviously, a slight change in course and a closely passing motorist raises the possibility of a collision.

2: The motorist is not aware of the cyclist.

The ways to help decrease the incidence of these collisions are,

1: enact a law that the motorist must not pass a cyclist within one metre, and

2: enact a law that all cyclists must display a red light both at night and day time.

I am free to discuss in depth any further items you wish, such as the lame driver licence system in force in Queensland and the benefits of my experience which I feel is not parallel by many other people in Queensland.

Regards
Allan Sutton