

Dear Sir/Madam

As a cyclist I am writing a submission for the government to make law a safe distance between vehicular traffic and bicycles on the road. I am recommending that you should consider at least 1 meter, and preferably 1.5 meters.

May I make you aware of some facts-

RACQ research shows that the common causes of crashes involving cars and cyclists was the result of motorists overtaking too closely to cyclists and also failing to give way to cyclists when exiting side streets and driveways and turning right or left and cutting off a cyclist on the kerb. It was NOT cyclists riding in packs, failing to use lights, not giving hand signals, etc.

My friend Sue Bell was killed whilst travelling on the road shoulder on the left side of the fog line (white line on the side of the road) when a truck with an oversized load overtook her too closely and hit her, breaking her neck and causing massive head injuries. Two other cyclist who were with her were also were hit and injured. The comment allegedly made by the truck driver at the scene of the accident was "I thought it would be close".

Many parts of Europe have as law a 3 foot or 1.5 meter rule as a safe distance between cyclists and vehicles and this has been shown to save lives.

This submission is brief, but as more and more people ride bicycles either for recreation, fitness or commuting, there will be more cyclists dying or being injured unless a safe distance between vehicles and bicycles is made law, thus enforcing motorists to comply.

Please give this your serious consideration

Wendy Williams

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