

10 July 2013

The Research Director  
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Re: Inquiry into Cycling Issues

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a pedestrian, motor vehicle driver and cyclist and believe that there are several ways that the safety of cyclists and other road users can be improved. I am pleased to see this inquiry underway and look forward to its outcomes.

I have experienced several safety near misses in recent times due to the unsafe and illegal behaviour of cyclists in my local neighbourhood. As a keen runner in the early hours of the morning I have regularly observed cyclists run red lights in the Milton area.

My pregnant wife and I were nearly run over by two cyclists who sped through a red light at a pedestrian crossing recently. We had a green signal to cross the road and were wearing high visibility clothing but were still very nearly seriously injured. I have experienced similar incidents on several occasions.

There are three areas for improvement in this situation that I encourage you to consider. The first is the construction of high quality, safe infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. I appreciate that this aspect is obvious and that much work is already underway to improve infrastructure in this regard.

The second area that I urge you to consider is that of compulsory registration for cyclists including compulsory third party insurance. I am concerned that if a member of my family was seriously injured by a cyclist that we could be left out of pocket if that individual didn't have the means to meet his or her obligations. Third party insurance might help to protect victims in such cases to some extent. It is also impossible to identify rogue cyclists as they have no visible identification. Number plates on bikes would make identification of offending cyclists possible and hopefully help to deter offenders in the first instance and prosecute them if necessary. The issue of registration costs would be a

politically sensitive topic but funds raised through this avenue could be directed towards improving cycling infrastructure and further improving the safety of cyclists.

My third suggestion for improving the safety of cyclists and other road users is to increase the enforcement of road rules on cyclists. I recently observed a speed camera near (but pointing away from) a set of traffic lights and a cyclist run the red light. Unfortunately the speed camera was not set up to catch this offender but perhaps slightly different location and resource could have. Increased enforcement of speed limits and other rules that restrict dangerous behaviour by cyclists and others would help to deter potential offenders and identify those who are most likely to cause harm to themselves and others.

I firmly believe that cycling is a wonderful recreation activity and efficient means of transport and that Queensland should promote and encourage cycling as much as possible. I encourage you to consider the safety of cyclists other road users by reviewing the issues and suggestions that I have raised.

Yours faithfully

Jim Wagner

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