

## **Submission to the Inquiry into Cycling Issues**

From – Neville Appleby



Cairns

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### **Background**

I have had 20 years experience as a recreational cyclist, cycling commuter and competitor. My comments are based on this experience and observation.

### **Drivers**

Queensland drivers at times treat cyclists with a lack of respect. I note this attitude is not present here in the Czech Republic or in my home state of Tasmania. It may be because the sport of cycling is more popular in these areas and accordingly the high profile cyclists are seen more frequently on the roads training.

I would like to see an educational campaign conducted to acknowledge the right of cyclists to use the road and to point out the need of the cyclists to rely upon the drivers for their safety.

I also consider it imperative that a 1 metre or 1.5 metre passing rule is brought in law. This would then give substance to the legality of space for the cyclist.

As a cyclist training to race, I often found I was “cut off” by vehicles. I took much of this to be an under estimation of speed. Drivers often do not realise a cyclist is not travelling a great deal slower than they are.

### **Riders**

I support the registration of cyclist over 17 years of age for a nominal value, linked to a driver's license. Again it would legitimise their use of public roads. I also consider that only registered cyclists should be allowed to ride on the open road (i.e. outside of the town 60 kph zone)

Unregistered cyclist (under 17) could ride within the town areas with their license (free) linked to a licensed driver.

A significant education campaign would need to accompany these changes.

### **Enforcement**

I consider the Police should enforce the law the road laws and apply the appropriate charge against the registration of the rider or their nominee.

Notable offences :

- > riding on the wrong side of the road
- > no helmet
- > no lights
- > not stopping at traffic lights or stop signs
- > riding a cycle while under the influence
- > speeding (principally downhill)

## **Groups**

The behavior of large groups of cyclists on the road is a point of much discussion.

I consider the groups should be clearly allowed by law to ride side by side staying as close to the left hand side as much as possible.

I also consider the number of people within a group should be limited, perhaps 20. Above this number, the group must have vehicular accompaniment with warning signs and lights.

## **Summary**

As can be seen, I have actually been much harsher on the cycling fraternity than drivers.

My experience here in Europe is that cyclist are much more road friendly and compliant with the laws. It may be cultural or it may be that the law is more respectful of their rights. Certainly, a lot of the issues which arise in Australia are not present here.

Neville Appleby