

From: David Jacobs 25 July 2013



To: Transport Housing and Local Government Committee

Subject: Submission into Cycling Enquiry in Queensland

By email thlgc@parliament.qld.gov.au

I have lived in Queensland for the last 20 years, emigrating as an adult from the UK. Since 1973 I have been actively involved in cycle racing, commuting extensively by bicycle and ridden socially and cycled toured in many countries throughout Europe, as well as here in South East Queensland.

Over many years I have been active teaching adults and children cycle skills both in Australia and the UK.

I am an accredited Cycling Australia coach and state level official. I still ride regularly using roads, cycle paths and off road trails, both at home here in Queensland and on regular trips to the UK and Europe. I have been driving since 1976

To address the first two terms of reference in the inquiry with regards to cycle related injuries and the interaction between all road users. I would present the following observation

One of my first Impressions when I moved to Queensland almost 20 years ago from the UK was just how car obsessed we seem to be here in South East Queensland compared to other countries. I soon came to the realization then and still believe now, Seeing owning a car as right of passage, cycling will never be seen as a genuine method of transport.

A 1 metre suggestion for overtaking cyclists is a wonderful idea, but will never be viable unless there is an active awareness campaign for the existing road rules. Many drivers are totally oblivious to their surroundings, and in the vast majority unaware of the current road rules. I do not believe more laws or rules will make any difference without supporting education into current road rule. I was recently stopped while out for a ride by a police officer and lectured on his interpretation of the road rules relating for cyclists, he was incorrect on most of what he said, starting with "and you cyclists don't do yourself any favours" was a generalisation, and a very sad reflection on the reaction of the majority of the public towards road users

I noticed in another submission, the excellent idea using the road side LCD displays to post messages emphasising the road rules applied to cyclists. This would cost nothing and would impact and inform lot of road users.

The state government should work with the state and national cycling bodies to encourage schools to promote a cycling skills program. I like the idea that new drivers should also have to complete some kind of cycle skills course. I know from experience it is very rare for young regular cyclist to not make very good drivers. They have a far better road sense than non road users.

It again comes to a lack of education on existing rules

Registration on bikes is pointless, it will require it's own infrastructure to manage and will require yet more police time to enforce the legislation. The simple fact of matter is that in an incident between a motor vehicle and a bike, the cyclist will come off worse, this needs to be addressed.

While not in the terms of reference I would like to see the current legislation relating to the compulsory fitment of a bells and reflectors on bikes. revoked. It is simply an archaic ruling with no relevance in a modern cycling culture. Better use could be made enforcing of the use of lights in early morning and at dusk , on bikes and cars along with recommendation that a rear flashing light is used , even during the day.

Thank you for allowing me to present this submission, I look forward to following the proceedings.

