

Dear Committee members,

I am a 62 year old cyclist who lives in the Western suburbs of Brisbane. I cycle to work most days weather permitting. My main concern is that cyclists be able to cycle around Brisbane in a law-abiding manner. Current road rules do not make this easy to do, with the consequences that there is a lowering of respect for the law, and the police tend to be seen as the 'enemy'.

The main road rule which causes problems is having to stop at the many stop signs that are placed in suburban streets. Under the current situation, almost all cyclists and a lot of vehicles (including some council busses) treat stop signs as if they were give way signs. When cyclists arrive at an intersection with a stop sign facing them, if they see there is no other traffic approaching the intersection, they simply keep rolling through the intersection. There is no risk of harm to anybody so there is no reason for coming to a complete standstill. Stopping on a bicycle is inconvenient because one loses momentum. This attitude however results in a lack of respect for both the law and the police who have to enforce it, so something needs to change.

My suggestion to get around this problem is to change all stop signs in 50 kph streets to give way signs. Most of the current stop signs were put in place when the speed limit was 60 kph, and it should be safer now to either remove them or replace them with give way signs. If there has been serious accidents at an intersection and a stop sign is warranted, then add a sign with the stop sign explaining why the stop sign is necessary. If cyclists can see a reason for a stop sign, they are more likely to stop.

I know of one instance where a stop sign has been replaced with a give way sign. It is at the intersection of Manburgh Tce and Railway Pde at Darra. When I ride or drive through this intersection now, I find it easier and quicker to do so. Why come to a complete stop when you can see that there are no other vehicles approaching the intersection?

Another area where normal cycling behavior results in road rules being broken is at road crossings. The current law states that bicycles have to be pushed across zebra crossings and at pedestrian crossing at traffic signals unless signs indicate otherwise. Most cyclists would not ride across these crossings if they thought it was dangerous. The law needs to change with respect to these crossings so that cyclists can continue to ride across them, but do it within the law, not outside it.

If these above changes were made, most cyclists would find themselves operating within the law and not outside of it, and that would be a good thing. It would allow greater respect by cyclists for both the law and the police.

Kind Regards,

Wayne Ritter

