



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe)

29 May 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

To ensure safety of NSW riders, road safety committee recommends maintaining mandatory helmet laws

Helmets are an important safeguard to reduce the risk of injury and death from road collisions. The Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety has looked at helmet laws as part of its recent inquiry into religious exemptions for the wearing of helmets and has recommended that mandatory helmet laws for motorcycles be retained in NSW.

During the inquiry the Committee considered the risks and potential benefits of providing members of the Sikh community with an exemption from mandatory helmet requirements on religious grounds.

"We heard from a range of stakeholders, to hear all perspectives on this issue. Members of the Sikh community told us that wearing a helmet is in conflict with their religious practice of wearing a turban, which has deep, symbolic significance for their faith's practicing members," said Committee Chair, Greg Warren MP.

"However, medical professionals and road safety experts emphasised how important helmets are in protecting riders from serious injury and death. We heard that there is no safe alternative to wearing a helmet, at any travelling speed."

"To prioritise the safety of riders we have recommended that the NSW Government retain current mandatory helmet laws for motorcycles."

Mr Warren noted, however, that opportunities to facilitate religious practice without compromising road safety should be investigated.

"To increase the accessibility of motorcycles to members of the Sikh community, we recommended that Transport for NSW look into alternative helmet designs and solutions that may be compatible with wearing turbans or other religious head coverings."

"We also know that several states and territories have bicycle helmet exemptions in place, but heard mixed evidence on how safe this practice is. We have therefore recommended that Transport for NSW review current helmet laws for bicycle riders and that it consider the experiences of other Australian jurisdictions as part of the review."

"On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all inquiry participants, in particular members of the Sikh community, whose insights have added so much value to this inquiry."

The inquiry report is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

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