

Submission  
No 17

## INQUIRY INTO VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

**Organisation:** Private Citizen  
**Name:** Mr Adam Sebire  
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Dear Staysafe Committee

Submission re: inquiry into vulnerable road users.

I would like to draw your attention to an easily fixed, but potentially deadly problem.

In central Sydney, and doubtlessly beyond, I would estimate that around a third of the RTA's stormwater drains are of the type pictured below, ie. two sets of approximately 10 parallel openings, large enough to swallow all but BMX and mountain bike wheels.

Because they are positioned near the gutter, which is where considerate bicycle-riders tend to ride, they are a waiting death-trap if hit at speed by the wheels which fit them. (Most city riders tend to use the thinner style of wheels for practical reasons).

I became aware of the problem after being forced to the very side of this particular intersection in the Rocks — one of many across the city — by a taxi that cut me off. Although my front wheel became lodged, I was travelling slowly enough not to go over the handlebars. I was extremely lucky.

I worry that this design could easily cause a fatality. At the very least, drains thus-designed should be rotated 90° so as not to be parallel with direction of travel. At best, they should all be melted down and replaced with something bicycle-friendly!

Thank you for your time.



Adam Sèbire

