

INQUIRY INTO VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Organisation: Private Citizen
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THE SENIOR COMMITTEE OFFICER
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY (STAY SAFE)
PARLIAMENT OF N.S.W.



DEAR SIR/ MADAM,

RE: INQUIRY INTO VULNERABLE ROAD USERS.

I WILL CONFINE MY OBSERVATIONS AND BRIEF COMMENTS TO BICYCLE USAGE IN N.S.W.

AS AN ACTIVE CYCLIST FOR MANY YEARS - NOW AGED 70 - THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS RESULT FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

1. MANY CYCLISTS ARE INJURED FOLLOWING COLLISION WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE WHEN THEY " HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN."

THE REQUIREMENT FOR CYCLISTS TO WEAR A STANDARDISED (IDENTICAL PATTERN) SAFETY "VISI VEST" SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THIS VEST TO APPEAR IN ALL ROAD REGULATION PUBLICATIONS AND COMPUTERISED INFORMATION. FAMILIARITY BY FREQUENT OBSERVATION OF A STANDARD VEST WOULD RESULT.

2. BICYCLE LANES ARE UNPOPULAR WITH MANY CYCLISTS. THEY OFTEN DISCONTINUE CREATING A " LANE BLENDING " HAZARD. THEY DO NOT TRAVERSE ROAD JUNCTIONS. THE SWEEPING ACTION OF MOTOR VEHICLES LEAVES BICYCLE LANES STREWN WITH TYRE DAMAGING DEBRIS. WHEREVER POSSIBLE RE- SHEETING OR RE- PAINTING ROAD PAVEMENT, SHOULD INCORPORATE A WIDER KERBSIDE LANE, TO ACCOMMODATE BICYCLES- RATHER THAN A MARKED CYCLE LANE.

3. GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE RIGHT OF CYCLISTS AS LEGITIMATE ROAD USERS SHOULD FORM PART OF EXAMINATION FOR GRANTING PROVISIONAL DRIVING LICENCES.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF PYRMONT BRIDGE MAY BE UNDER ANOTHER AUTHORITY . MIXING BICYCLES WITH PEDESTRIANS ON THE BRIDGE PRESENTS PROBLEMS. WOULD A DEDICATED, MID LINE BICYCLE LANE WITH THE CURRENT SPEED LIMITS BE A SAFER OPTION.?

5. IN HIGH BICYCLE USAGE AREAS - C.B.D. AND SURROUNDING SUBURBS IN PROXIMITY A 40 k.p.h. SPEED LIMIT SHOULD BE INTRODUCED. TRAVEL TIMES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES MAY BE MARGINALLY EXTENDED - OR EVEN REDUCED - WITH OBVIOUS SAFETY POSITIVES.

6. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE IMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION OF A BICYCLE REGISTRATION FEE WOULD BE UNPOPULAR AND DIFFICULT TO APPLY. VERBAL ABUSE DIRECTED AT CYCLISTS BY MOTORISTS (OR MOST OFTEN VEHICLE PASSENGERS) WILL FREQUENTLY INCLUDE PHRASES RELATED TO

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“ PAYMENT OF REGO” (SIC) “ YOU DON’T PAY REGO “ AND THE LIKE. WOULD A NOMINAL, PER BICYCLE USER FEE, TEMPER THIS CONFLICT?

7. THE CONTROL TIMING OF SOME TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT WIDER THAN AVERAGE ROAD JUNCTIONS CAN LEAVE CYCLISTS IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION. E.g. TRAVELLING NORTH ON WINDSOR ROAD, ONE CAN LEGITIMATELY ENTER THE JUNCTION ON AN AMBER LIGHT AND BEFORE REACHING THE OTHER SIDE TRAFFIC FROM THE M2 HAS THE GREEN LIGHT TO TURN ONTO WINDSOR ROAD - WHICH THEY DO AT SPEED.

8. CONSTANT AWARENESS AND PROMPT REPAIRS TO ROAD SURFACE CYCLE HAZARDS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES..

I THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING MY SUBMISSION.

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Terry Lloyd 2/9/10

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