

## **RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS FOR THE WEARING OF HELMETS**

**Organisation:** Pedestrian Council of Australia Ltd

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The Chair  
NSW STAYSAFE

Of all the issues to come before STASAFE this would have to be the most stupid.

While our current road deaths are going through the roof and we have the worst increase in deaths per 100,000 in over a decade, someone thinks it would be a good idea to make it worse.

Just look at what is happening in the Netherlands

The situation regarding bicycle crash fatalities in the Netherlands has indeed been worsening in recent years, with cyclists now accounting for the largest group of traffic fatalities. This trend is particularly concerning when compared to other road users. In 2023, there were 270 cyclist fatalities in the Netherlands, which is a slight decrease from the 291 deaths recorded in 2022. However, this number is still significantly higher than in previous years. For context, in 2021 there were 207 cyclist deaths, and in 2020 there were 2299.

The increase in cyclist fatalities is particularly striking when compared to other road users: In 2022, cyclists accounted for 291 deaths, surpassing car occupant fatalities (225). Pedestrian and truck driver fatalities were much lower, at 57 and 20 respectively in 2022. This shift represents a significant change, as it's the first time in recent history that cyclist deaths have outnumbered car occupant deaths in the Netherlands.

If the Sikhs believe they have some divine right to be exempted from laws proven to keep all Australians cyclists, then each rider should be required to deposit a cash bond of \$20 million. These are the average lifetime care costs for injuries such as serious head injuries and quadriplegia and paraplegia.

Why on earth should the NSW and Australian taxpayers subsidise these people.

What next. Will the Scientologists get an exemption from wearing Seatbelts because of some religious belief.

And what happens when they want to ride from Albury to Wodonga where the exemptions don't exist. Or Queanbeyan to Canberra.

This is nonsense STAYSAFE.

Please spend your time and resources on the vitally important road safety issues like pedestrian safety or opposing the incoming e-Rideables tsunami.



*It took humans a million years to learn how to walk...  
and five minutes to forget.*

Regards



Harold Scruby  
**CEO**



**Pedestrian Council of Australia Limited**

*The Walking Class*

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