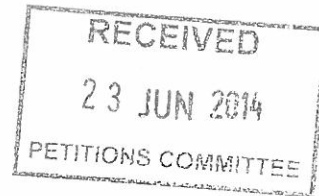




The Hon Jamie Briggs MP

Assistant Minister for Infrastructure
and Regional Development
Member for Mayo



PDR ID: MC14-001028

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter dated 29 May 2014 about a petition proposing that the Australian Road Rules (ARRs) be amended to require drivers to provide a minimum overtaking distance when passing bicycle riders.

The Australian Government strongly supports the creation of a safe road environment for cyclists. This is reflected in the goals and priorities of two key national strategies established in cooperation with the states and territories: the National Road Safety Strategy 2011–2020, which aims to reduce serious road casualties by at least 30 per cent by 2020; and the National Cycling Strategy 2011–2016, which aims to double the number of people cycling by 2016.

The Government is contributing directly to improved cyclist safety through its ongoing investment in the development of Australia's road infrastructure. This includes funding for many projects designed to give riders greater protection on the road, for example by providing segregated paths or delineated lanes for cyclists.

The Government is also aware of proposals to mandate minimum overtaking distances for motorists passing cyclists – the so-called 'one metre rule' – and to incorporate such requirements in the ARR. This is a matter primarily for state and territory governments, which have direct responsibility for traffic regulation, policing and road user education within their respective jurisdictions.

The ARR were developed cooperatively by the states and territories as a means of encouraging nationally consistent traffic regulation and are maintained through a process managed by the National Transport Commission. While they form the basis of the road rules in each jurisdiction, amendments to the ARR and their adoption as law continue to be dependent on state and territory decisions.

I can advise you that in April this year the Queensland Government amended its road rules to introduce the 'one metre rule' on a two-year trial basis. Queensland's initiative was noted by all state and territory transport Ministers at a recent meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (on 23 May 2014) and the issue is expected to be further considered as the trial progresses.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely *Kevin Reynolds*

Jamie Briggs

16 JUN 2014