

Hello,

I would like to make a submission on the mandatory wearing of helmets by cyclists.

These laws do not make much sense for many types of cycling. For example, a slow trip to the shops, or when going slowly on a cycle path, the risk is very low. In these situations, a helmet does not offer much benefit.

Statistics show that compulsory helmet wearing greatly reduces the number of people cycling. Reducing cyclist numbers impacts on safety. Where there are large numbers of cyclists, the rate of injuries per cyclist falls. 80% of crashes involving a car and a bike are the fault of the motorist. Intuitively, motorists will change their behaviour when there are many cyclists around, becoming more attentive, careful and driving more slowly.

Therefore in the interests of boosting numbers and improving safety, I would request that the helmet laws be relaxed for certain kinds of low risk situations, such as when on a cycleway or when a cyclist is going slowly, say less than 20km/h.

Cheers,
Edward Re