



**a metre  
matters**



# **Petition** calling for a **Minimum overtaking distance road rule: drivers passing bicycle riders**

## **To The Honourable The Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives**

This petition of certain Citizens of Australia draws the attention of the House to need for the Australian Road Rules to require drivers to provide a minimum overtaking distance when passing bicycle riders.

In 2013, 48 bicycle riders were killed, the highest number of bicycle rider deaths since 1997. Every year over 9,500 bicycle riders are seriously injured. While the overall road toll is decreasing, this is not the case for bicycle riders.

The human trauma costs of cycling in Australia are unacceptable.

### **Request**

We therefore ask the House to use all tools at its disposal to ensure the Australian Road Rules are amended to require that:

- drivers allow a minimum of one metre when overtaking bicycle riders in speed zones up to 60km/hr
- drivers allow a minimum of 1.5 metres when overtaking bicycle riders in speed zones over 60km/hr

This amendment, together with a public information and enforcement program, would significantly improve the safety of bicycle riders on our roads and maintain effectiveness and efficiency of the road transport system. The amendment will also contribute to the Government's current Cycling and Road Safety Strategies, helping more Australians enjoy a safe cycling environment.