

## Cycling Road Rules Review



VicRoad's review of the cycling road rules is progressing.

We have worked on the delivery of road rule communications that the review recommended.

The special projects are progressing, and the initial road rule amendments came into effect on 1 July 2017.

### 1. The following road rule changes were made on 1 July 2017:

- allow infringement notices to be issued to bike riders committing mobile phone use offences.
- update rules to clarify that motorists must give way to bike riders crossing on a green bike light.
- delete the rule that requires bike carriers to be removed from the back of cars when not carrying a bicycle.

- the special project on bikes in bus lanes has been finalised, with bikes now allowed to ride in bus lanes as a safer option to staying in fast running traffic lanes (unless posted otherwise).

### 2. Overtaking road rule

The Government response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking bicycles) Bill 2015 report, was tabled in Parliament on 23 March.

The Government response outlines a plan to undertake a two stage process. Stage One is an extensive 12 month community education campaign managed by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

The campaign will be designed to change motorists' behaviour towards cyclists and encourage them to leave a safe distance of 1 or 1.5 metres when passing bike riders depending on the speed limit.

The effectiveness of the education campaign will be evaluated, to assess whether it achieved safety benefits similar to those achieved with regulatory change in other States and Territories.

If significant driver behaviour change is not achieved, Stage Two will be introduced, which will involve a trial of mandatory passing distances.

The TAC campaign is now under development and is planned to commence in late 2017.

### 3. Deliver four special projects

Four special projects are currently underway.

#### a. Left-hand turn rules

The review found that current left-hand turn rules are confusing and don't work well together. There is a range of cycling infrastructure at intersections and this means that interpretation of the road rules becomes confusing and ambiguous.

Feedback on how to address this situation has proven inconclusive and conflicting. In order to help shape the right outcomes, we have:

- Supported an observation research project run by Monash University Dept of Engineering to observe cyclist and vehicle movements at a variety of left hand turn intersections.
- Approached other states to find out how they have dealt with this situation.

As a result of the stakeholder and community consultations already held, and the above activities VicRoads will commence work on developing a position on left hand turns in conjunction with key stakeholders.

A final position will then be drawn up with a view to confirming any proposed road rule changes by the end of 2017.

**b. Riding on footpaths for specific purposes (teenagers accompanying children under 12 years old, and riding with children in bike trailers or in baby seats)**

VicRoads has:

- Run a council officer stakeholder workshop in conjunction with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)
- Run a community consultation on the proposed footpath road rule amendments.

As a result of the stakeholder and community consultation VicRoads developed a draft position on each of the recommendations for change, which have been discussed with key stakeholders and is near completion. The final position on footpaths is currently being drafted.

**c. Cyclists on multi-lane roundabouts**

VicRoads undertook a project to address roundabout design, and then investigate how the road rules work in conjunction with different roundabout designs.

Guidance on bicycle treatments at roundabouts was developed by VicRoads and released in December 2016. A report from Ausroads 'Bicycle Safety at Roundabouts' was released in May 2017.

Following on from the two infrastructure orientated reports the current roundabout cycling road rules will be reconsidered and a position will be developed.

The new VicRoads guidance is available on the VicRoads web site. The Ausroads report is available on the Ausroads web site.

**d. Conduct of works or activities on a highway**

VicRoads is currently working on a project to review its road works practices, and in so doing improve the accommodation of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bike riders when road works are underway.

This work was started with a Review of Work Site Traffic Management (WSTM).

In addition a project has been developed to look at the safety of Trucks and Vulnerable Road Users around major transport construction projects, part of which is looking at traffic management practices and how they could be improved to better accommodate the safe travel of vulnerable road users.

**4. Communicate the nominated road rules that are not well known or need better compliance**

An education campaign has recently been rolled out to further communicate key cycling related road rules, as recommended by the review report and prioritised by key stakeholders.

Messages have been developed to address:

- Using bike lights at night, including the development of a short film
- Giving way to pedestrians on shared paths and associated 'promo' bike roll out.
- Avoiding opening car doors into the path of bike riders, including TAC rider reminder hand outs on key arterial roads.
- Using an optional hook turn, including advertising on Yarra Trams and production of a short animation.
- Riding side by side
- No hand held mobile phone use
- the new road rule amendments.

Key stakeholders have been instrumental in supporting the roll out of each of these communications.

We would like to thank our key stakeholders for their efforts and support in distributing these communications.

**Next steps**

The next stage will be to draw together key stakeholders to finalise a position on:

- Left hand turns
- Cycling on roundabouts

The roll out of additional communications is planned, with an initial focus on the remaining road rules nominated for communication.

**How can you stay informed?**

You can stay up to date by visiting the VicRoads website at: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/cyclist-safety/cycling-road-rules-review>