

## Cycling Road Rules Review



**VicRoad's review of the cycling road rules is still underway. We have looked in depth at the recommendations in the independent consultant's Cycling Road Rules Review Report, and consulted with key stakeholders and the community about how best to respond to these recommendations.**

As a result of the recent consultations undertaken, VicRoads has adopted the following positions:

### 1. Particular road rules that have been recommended for change have now been approved

- 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.

These rule amendments will now be legally drafted and formally implemented in early 2017.

### 2. No immediate action

VicRoads will keep a watching brief on the implementation of the overtaking rules in other jurisdictions, while appreciating the complexity of the issue for Victoria. There is currently a Parliamentary Inquiry into the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking bicycles) Bill 2015 and the outcome of that Inquiry will also inform this Review.

### 3. Deliver five special projects

Particular recommendations in the report require further investigation in order to better understand their implications.

Our findings will be used to inform the Government's thinking on solutions to ensure the safest possible outcomes for all Victorian road users.

#### a. Left-hand turn rules

The review found that the 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:

- Run a key stakeholder workshop specifically on left hand turn rules only
- Run a community consultation on left hand turn rules
- Begun a research project with Monash University Dept of Engineering to observe cyclist and vehicle movements at a variety of left hand turn intersections to investigate safe and unsafe driver/cyclist interactions. This project will be completed at the end of November 2016.

As a result of the stakeholder and community consultations already held, and the Monash University investigation under way, VicRoads will develop a position on the left hand turn rules. Consultation will then be

undertaken on the proposed position.

**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)**

Feedback on how to address this situation has proven inconclusive and conflicting. In order to help shape the right outcomes, 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 will develop a position on each of the recommendations for change, which will then seek further feedback from stakeholders.

**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. This project is ongoing and guidance on bicycle treatments at roundabouts is currently being developed which in turn will influence the amendment of any rules associated with cycling on roundabouts. If you are interested in the new guidance you can register interest as a VicRoads Traffic Engineering Management subscriber via the VicRoads web site.

**d. Travelling in bus lanes, unless signed otherwise**

Under the current road rules, bicycles are not allowed to ride in bus lanes unless signed

otherwise. Therefore, cyclists would be required to travel in the traffic lane adjacent to the bus lane.

VicRoads recognises that with the differences in operating speed, this is not the safest solution for people riding bikes. Using separated bicycle facilities, where they exist, improves safety.

However where separated facilities are not available VicRoads agrees that a safer option than sharing a lane with high speed traffic may be to allow bicycles to ride in bus lanes.

A proposal to allow bikes to ride in bus lanes is currently being considered. If successful this may influence the recommendation that certain locations should not allow two abreast riding. VicRoads will consider the implications for riding two abreast in bus lanes, in collaboration with Public Transport Victoria and other stakeholders once the outcome of this proposal is known.

**e. 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 has started with a Review of Work Site Traffic Management (WSTM), a consultation has been completed and VicRoads is now considering how best to improve the safety of on road work sites. See VicRoads WSTM update document provided on the Cycling Road Rules web page for an update on this project.

**4. Communicate the 20 road rules that are not well known or need better compliance**

An education campaign is currently being developed to address this recommendation. The stakeholder consultation prioritised the rules in order to determine which rules should be focussed on initially.

As a result the first campaign will most importantly focus on communicating with:

- drivers on the importance of looking for cyclists to avoid car dooring incidents.
- bike riders about the rules around cycling on shared paths and giving way to pedestrians.
- bike riders and drivers about the optional hook turn road rule.

**Next steps**

The next stage will focus on rolling out the marketing campaign, and finalising the footpath road rules.

Further development of the remaining two complex projects – left hand turns and cycling on roundabouts, is underway and due to report by December 2016.

**How can you stay informed?**

You can stay up to date by visiting the [Cycling road rules review page](#) on the VicRoads website.