



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 31 - Ms Helen Woittiez

Inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and  
Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)

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Dear Committee

My observations/recommendations are based on my experiences as a commuter cyclist in Canberra for over 20 years. I commute most days, at the moment 16km each way, but previously up to 25km each way.

All of the below are to make cycling safer, both for regular cyclists like myself, and for those who may be encouraged to cycle if the infrastructure was safer.

1. We need more separated paths. For years I rode down Northbourne Avenue and it was terrifying. I had a few close calls with drivers not allowing me much space.
2. We need to fill the cycle path gaps. For example, getting between Narrabundah and the lake bike path that ends on Wentworth Ave in Kingston. Fyshwick (especially because the streets are busier) and Mitchell both lack safe through commuting too.
3. Paths need better and more regular maintenance. Lumps, bumps, holes, etc are common hazards. For example, grass growing in cracks on the path and in from each side has left a narrow clear area on sections of the Gungahlin Drive path between Sandford Street and the Barton Highway.
4. Lighting needs to improve on paths, both for cyclist and pedestrian safety. Example is the Sullivans Creek path from Barry Drive to Mouat Street. The lights are just a bit too far spaced, leaving dark patches and often a few are out – these need regular patrols to check and replace globes.
5. We need driver education and/or signage (or both) so drivers are more aware of cyclists when they are turning. I have had so many close calls with drivers turning left in front of me and coming out of streets on my left. I regularly experience this on the path between Barry Drive and Edinburgh Ave. I am always well lit at night and wear fluoro/bright colours, but drivers still don't see me sometimes.
6. Finally, e-scooters. There's less on the paths at the moment, probably due to the cold, but some are still being left awkwardly and unsafely on paths.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit these thoughts.

Helen Woittiez

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