



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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

Submission No 40 - Mr Greg Berry

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

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Subject: STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT, AND CITY SERVICES ON INQUIRY INTO ROAD TRANSPORT (SAFETY AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (NO 2)
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**To: Standing Committee on Planning Transport and City Services
Inquiry into Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management)
Amendment Bill 2021 (No2)**

I have been riding bikes in Canberra for the past 30 years. Consequently, I am very experienced as a vulnerable road user. I feel much less vulnerable when driving my car.

I support the amendment to the Bill as it will fill a gap in the present law and offer greater protection for vulnerable road users.

Although most vehicle drivers respect the road rules and the right of bike riders to use the roads, bike riders are facing increased risks from negligent driving caused by drivers distracted by mobile phones and other electronic distractions in modern vehicles. Moreover, some drivers think bike riders are not entitled to be on the roads and drive negligently and aggressively in the presence of bikes. This plays out on the roads with drivers not paying attention and driving too close to bikes, drifting out of their lanes into the paths of bikes, rear-ending bikes, not giving way when turning left, or cutting off bikes at intersections and slip lanes.

The Bill will remedy the current situation where the penalty for such negligent driving is no more than that for a low-grade speeding offence, unless it causes grievous harm or death. There are many cases of injury to vulnerable road users that do not meet those thresholds but, nevertheless, lead to broken bones, concussion, joint damage, loss of teeth, disfiguring skin damage, stress and pain. I therefore support the introduction of a new penalty for driving negligently and causing harm to vulnerable road users.

I don't consider it necessary to introduce a prison sentence penalty. But it is important that the law is an effective deterrent to negligent driving causing harm. To this end I support the introduction of a traffic infringement notice and the proposed fine of \$1600. However, I consider the proposed loss of 3 demerit points is inadequate and I recommend this be increased 4 points.

Yours sincerely

Grega Berry
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