



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 32 - Mr Kip Tanner

Inquiry into the 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)

[this submission is pretty much the same as Richard Bush's because I read his and agreed with what he said.]

I ride a bike for transport and recreation. That makes me a **vulnerable road user**.

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.

While 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, there are some drivers who think bike riders are not entitled to be on the roads - such drivers may drive negligently 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 ramps.

The Bill will help to remedy the current situation where the penalty for such negligent driving is a slap on the wrist equivalent to a speeding fine, 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 \$1,600**. However, the proposed loss of **three licence points is inadequate** and I recommend this be increased to loss of **four licence points**.

Making changes to the legislation of this nature will send a clear message that the ACT Government intends to create a safe environment for vulnerable road users and is genuinely seeking to achieve mode shift towards active travel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kip Tanner, [REDACTED]

