



**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 43 - Ms Ulrik Ross

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

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**From:** [Ulrike Ross](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - PTCS](#)  
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Hello,

I would like to enter my submission to the Inquiry into Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2).

My wife and I ride our bikes to work, spending two hours on the road every workday. We have noticed driver behaviours towards us which range from inattentiveness to aggression. We have had plenty of near misses with drivers at intersections and crossings, where they will claim that they didn't see us - this despite the fact that our bikes are rather distinct and festooned with tall colourful flags, reflectors and lights. In the most recent near miss, the driver was distracted by their phone and only braked because their small child sang out that they had seen us. When we are forced to ride on the road where there is no separate bike path available, many drivers pass too close to us and speed past aggressively. We have also been verbally abused by drivers because we were riding on the road - which sits particularly poorly with me as I am an abuse survivor.

Another common problem we face is in Kingston, where kerbside parking means that we constantly need to watch for driver who open their car doors to the bike lane without first checking for traffic. Again in Kingston, cars will often stop in the bike lane and obstruct us, even though parking spaces are available.

We very much support the introduction of stronger penalties for drivers who harm cyclists. Unlike them, we are not protected by tonnes of steel. We rely on others to behave in a safe and courteous manner around vulnerable road users like us.

Regards,

[Redacted signature block]