

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 4 - Ms Leela Ross

Inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic

Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)

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Moin,

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 are regular cyclists that ride within the ACT, we ride to work and back in an effort to reduce congestion on the roads and do our part to assist the environment.

In the short stretches of backroad that we ride, I find that in my experience way too many car drivers treat us like obstacles rather than people. They are willing to put us and others in harm's way to save a moment of their time because the consequences of being caught are so low, that even if they are caught or charges are pressed.

I find that the attitude towards vulnerable road users, be that cyclists or otherwise, is ignored and often disregarded by those in cars who have the power to cause us great harm through inattention or malice. We need strong protection for those of us who choose or can't use a car for transport. We are road users too, and we deserve the same protection as everyone else.

The difference is car drivers are protected by sheets of steel, and we the other road users are only protected by the strength of the laws created to protect us.

Thanks, Leela Ross