



**Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP**  
Member for Inala

Our ref: PP1652-11

Your ref: Petitions

**15 APR 2011**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to a petition number 1652-11 lodged with the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Member for Bundaberg on 22 March 2011 about a safe travelling distance between a cyclist and a vehicle.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads advises that a rule to mandate a one metre distance for motor vehicles when overtaking or approaching cyclists is not required. There is already a rule in Queensland law that makes it an offence for any driver or rider to overtake unsafely.

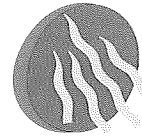
In 1999, Queensland adopted the *Australian Road Rules* into state legislation. This means that the road rules in all jurisdictions of Australia, including rules about the distance between cyclists and vehicles, are essentially uniform. The road traffic authorities in each state or territory must agree to any significant changes to the *Australian Road Rules* in order to preserve that uniformity. Once the *Australian Road Rules* have been amended, these changes are then incorporated in the legislation of each state and territory. In the case of Queensland, this is the *Queensland Road Rules*.

The *Queensland Road Rules* currently provide that a driver must not overtake a vehicle unless the driver can do so safely and that an overtaking driver must leave sufficient distance from another vehicle, including a bicycle, to avoid a collision.

With regards to safe cycling distances, it is the department's desire to maintain consistency with the nationally agreed *Australian Road Rules*. As such, there are currently no plans to amend the *Queensland Road Rules* to prescribe a specific minimum clearance for a motor vehicle approaching or overtaking a bicycle.

Yours sincerely

**Anastasia Palaszczuk MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs**



**Queensland  
Government**

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