

# Samantha Dunn MLC

Presentation to Inquiry into the Road  
Safety Road Rules 2009 (Overtaking  
Bicycles) Bill 2015

# Key aspects of the bill

- Not a new road rule.
- Modifies the existing safe passing rules to make them clear.
- 1m+ is already the recommended passing distance in Victoria. That isn't controversial.
- Cars can already cross white lines to get around "hazards". That isn't controversial.
- Doesn't affect trams.

# Road to Solo Driving



October 2014



# Road to Solo Driving Handbook

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## Rules and responsibilities

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### ***At shopping centres and car parks***

At shopping centres, car parks and other busy places there is a greater chance of pedestrians crossing the road unexpectedly or stepping out from behind or between vehicles without looking. Slow down and be alert.

### ***Near schools***

Take care when driving near schools especially at times when children are arriving or leaving. Watch out for 40 km/h or 60 km/h speed limits outside schools.

### ***Where children are walking or playing***

Beware of children darting out suddenly from between parked cars, near playgrounds, bus stops or anywhere you see children walking or playing.

### ***Near libraries and senior citizens' clubs***

Be alert and take extra care in areas where there are elderly people, such as libraries, senior citizens' clubs and homes for the elderly.

### **Tip**

**Beware of children suddenly coming out from between parked cars, near playgrounds or bus stops – they are often hard to see over the tops of cars.**

### ***Vision impaired***

Be aware of pedestrians with poor or impaired vision who may be using a guide dog, a white cane or white walking stick. They may not see your vehicle clearly or be able to judge the speed of your vehicle.

### ***Near hotels or nightclubs***

Pedestrians who have been drinking may be impaired by alcohol. They may not pay attention to the traffic before crossing the road.

### ***Wet weather***

Pedestrians may hurry and take risks in the wet. Slow down and take extra care in these conditions.

### ***At night***

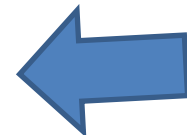
Pedestrians may be particularly difficult to see in the dark or near-dark conditions.

### ***Motorised mobility devices***

Motorised mobility devices include wheelchairs, scooters and buggies that are used by people who are unable to walk or have difficulty walking. People using motorised mobility devices must obey the same road rules as other pedestrians. Watch out for motorised mobility devices.

### ***Sharing the road with cyclists and motorcyclists***

You need to be especially alert for cyclists and motorcyclists as they are more at risk of injury than drivers. Give cyclists and motorcyclists space – they have the same rights and responsibilities as you. Drivers should leave at least one metre clearance when overtaking cyclists or motorcyclists and more clearance on higher speed roads.



# Road to Solo Driving Handbook

Before you open your car door, use your mirrors and do a headcheck to look for cyclists and motorcyclists passing your car.

## Tip

Doing a head check is easier if you open the car door with your left hand.

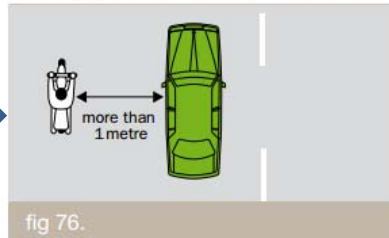
When passing a parked car, cyclists and motorcyclists should keep well clear in case a door is opened unexpectedly.

## Tip

Many motorcycles can accelerate faster than a car. What looks like a safe gap in traffic, may not be if there is a motorcycle among the cars.

Cyclists and motorcyclists are entitled to ride two abreast (up to 1.5 metres apart); this makes them easier to see. Give cyclists and motorcyclists their own space.

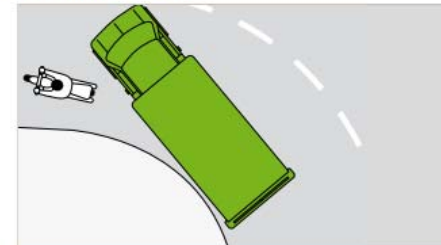
Never share the lane with cyclists or motorcyclists if you cannot leave this clearance. Motorcyclists and cyclists should also keep a safe distance from other vehicles and not travel through small gaps between lines of traffic.



## Watch out for cyclists and motorcyclists

Bicycles and motorcycles are smaller than cars and therefore harder to see and are more likely to be hidden in your blind spot. Keep a lookout for them, particularly before turning or entering an intersection or changing lanes. Intersections are where many motorcycle crashes occur because vehicles turning left or right cut across in front of the rider.

Riders can be hidden by large vehicles which are overtaking them, such as trucks and buses. Only move left or turn left from behind a large vehicle when you have a clear view and are sure that the road is clear.



Watch out for cyclists and motorcycles. Riders can be hidden by large vehicles which are overtaking them, such as trucks and buses.

## Fact

Over one third of motorcycle crashes happen at intersections. Remember: Always 'Look Bike'.

The Senate

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Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport  
References Committee

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Aspects of road safety in Australia

Interim report

**Recommendation 2**

**1.66** The committee recommends that the National Transport Commission amend the model Australian Road Rules to mandate a safe passing distance for drivers overtaking cyclists of one metre where the speed limit is 60 kilometres per hour or lower and 1.5 metres where the speed limit is higher.

May 2016

There is enough room.



- The Metre Matters Bill won't create safe roads on its own. It works with existing Victorian government and local government measures.
- Will clarifying the road rules make our roads safer? Yes.
- Will it work with the TAC's "Towards Zero" framework? Yes.
- Creates safety on regional Victorian roads that do not have as much infrastructure funding



# Submissions to this Committee

- 284 submissions support the reform
- 15 submissions oppose the reform
- 4 submissions do not take a position for or against

# Estimating distance in a dynamic environment

## SPORT

- AFL – 15 metre rule for marks
- AFL – Shepherding rule (5m)
- Netball – 3 foot rule
- Soccer – the Offside Rule
- Rugby - the 'lines out' are 1m apart

# Estimating distance in a dynamic environment

- Rule 148. Minimum 200 m or 60 m for heavy vehicles / road trains behind another heavy vehicle or road train.
- Rule 151. Maximum 1.5 metres side by side.
- Rule 153. Drive 50m in bike lane
- Rule 193 – 100m visibility on crest of hill
- Rule 216, 224B, 259 – distance visibility for tail lights, bike and scooter lights
- Rule 218 – dip headlights 200m

# Estimating distance in a dynamic environment

- Intervention orders have distances
- 5 Knot Speed Limit for boats 200m from shore
- Kite surfer laws - 5 knots within 200m of the shore, 50m of a jetty, 50m of a person, or 50m from another vessel or any object in the water. Only jump when you have a clear safety zone 50m downwind and 30m upwind.
- Drone laws – height, distance from people etc