

From: Stuart Westbury
To: robert.mcdonald@parliament.vic.gov.au
Date: 20/04/2012 11:27 AM
Subject: Submission to Car Dooring Bill Inquiry

Hi there,

I was involved in an unreported dooring incident late last year at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth streets. I was cycling east on Collins St between Queen and Elizabeth. As this is a particularly bad stretch of road for both car doors and pedestrians stepping out in front of cyclists, I was luckily going quite slow. On my approach to Elizabeth street, a passenger opened the door of taxi that was stopped at the lights. My right shoulder smashed into the open door and the front of my bike was buckled.

I picked up my bike and moved it to the footpath with an expectation that the passenger would follow to discuss the incident. In the shocked and confused moments where I inspected my bike and my shoulder, the passenger and the taxi had both disappeared. I had no registration, no details, nothing.

I managed to bend my bike back into shape enough to ride it home and I wore a large bruise on my shoulder for a few weeks. I still ride to work, but much less frequently now. As soon as I enter the city, I get very nervous and sometimes I just can't be bothered with the stress.

I agree that the fine should be increased to well above what it is now and that it should also apply to passengers that open doors. I also agree that the penalty should include demerit points for drivers who do this. An advertising campaign would also be welcomed. Most of all, we need better bike lanes into the city. I would happily ride an extra 10 or 15 mins to take a decent and safe route into work. As it stands, there really isn't one available to me.

Two of my friends also received the 'lucky door prize' last year. One reported, one not. Both of them had worse injuries than me. With the number of cyclists in Melbourne multiplying at such a rate, something desperately needs to be done or people will be killed.

Cheers,

Stuart Westbury