

25 April 2012

Secretary  
Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

**RE: Proposed 'dooring' law**

Dear Secretary

I am both a cyclist and a car driver. I would like to see the introduction of the 'dooring' law.

Ten years ago when my son, Darcy, was a toddler, I was riding with him in a bike seat behind me. As I passed a car parked outside a yard that sold BMW's in Gordon Avenue, Geelong West, the driver of a BMW opened his door without looking, and very narrowly missed hitting me. While I continued riding past, he grinned at me and said, "Nearly got you!".

I was in shock as I contemplated what could have been, namely myself falling over and my son being thrown on to the road. I was so dazed that I did not have the presence of mind to turn back and inform the driver about how serious this could have been, and that it was not, in fact, at all funny.

I have often thought of this incident, and have always regretted not speaking to the man as it is only through education that we can make people understand just how dangerous, and potentially fatal, these types of careless actions can be.

I therefore believe that the current low penalty for opening a car door into the path of a cyclist should be increased so that drivers realise the serious nature of this usually careless act. An increased fine plus penalizing with demerit points will act as a deterrent and hopefully make the roads safer for all.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Nugent