

11 December 2020

Mr Donald Campbell
Co-convenor
Brisbane Central Business District (CBD) Bicycle User Group (BUG)
brisbanecbdebug@gmail.com

Dear Mr Campbell

I refer to your email of 3 December 2020 to the Honourable Mark Bailey MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, about the one metre passing law and related digital device results. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

Thank you to CBD BUG for your support for the Minimum Passing Distance legislation and interest in ensuring it is being effectively enforced.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) commissioned an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the minimum passing distance rule by the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety Queensland (CARRS-Q). The final report was delivered in February 2016. The evaluation by CARRS Q examined the practical implementation, impact on road users' attitudes and perceptions and road safety benefits. The report concluded that, despite some practical difficulties in implementation, the rule was effective in improving motorists' awareness of bike riders. A complete copy of the evaluation is available on the TMR website at www.tmr.qld.gov.au and by following the links to (1) Safety, (2) Road safety and (3) Road safety research reports.

You have asked about the results of a project, for which a tender was announced in 2016. The project delivered a trial of bicycle mounted distance sensor and video capture technologies to determine their effectiveness in better measuring the minimum passing distance between bike riders and motor vehicles.

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This trial was also led by CARRS-Q. It identified that the devices available for testing at the time were able to measure passing distances within five per cent accuracy.

The trial found that none of the devices available were able to be permanently sealed to prohibit tampering like similar devices used by Queensland Police Service (QPS) for enforcement, such as speed cameras. CARRS-Q's conclusion was that the devices were unable to meet evidentiary requirements for prosecution of infringements of the minimum passing distance law.

You can read more about the results of the study in an article titled 'Trialling technology to measure passing distance' by visiting <https://blog.tmr.qld.gov.au/cycling> and follow the links to (1) Measuring progress (2) Achievements and (3) Learn more about sharing our roads and public spaces.

While TMR is responsible for administration of the Queensland Road Rules, enforcement of the rules is the responsibility of QPS. Enforcement of the minimum passing distance rule is at the discretion of QPS and will depend on individual circumstances. Bike riders are encouraged to report motorists passing unsafely to QPS. They can do so by attending a police station or through PoliceLink on 131 444, email at policeink@police.qld.gov.au or by using the PoliceLink app. QPS can issue a \$400 fine and three demerit points to a motorist for disobeying the minimum passing distance rule.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Christina Heffner
A/General Manager (Transport Strategy and Planning)