



## Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Our ref: MC132523

3 April 2023

Mr Paul French  
Co-convenor  
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group  
brisbanecbdebug@gmail.com

Dear Mr French

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2023 about a range of road rule issues relating to bike riders.

I appreciate the time and effort you and the Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) have made in bringing these matters to my attention.

As you highlight in your letter, changes to the *Queensland Road Rules* (QRR) commenced on 1 November 2022 to improve the safety of personal mobility devices (PMD), such as e-scooters, in Queensland. A broad range of stakeholders contributed to these reforms, including stakeholders representing bike riders, such as Bicycle Queensland. I have also provided several updates to various Active Transport Advisory Committees and have always valued CBD BUG's input.

As part of the PMD reforms, I am pleased to have been able to make complementary changes that will also improve the safety of other vulnerable road users, like bike riders. One example is the extension of give way protections at intersections and slip lanes to also cover bike riders. A driver turning at an intersection must now give way to any pedestrians, bike and PMD riders crossing the road or slip lane they are entering.

Under the QRR, bikes are considered vehicles. As such, it is not necessary to specifically reference bikes in the give way rules for intersections with flashing lights (section 63) or when crossing a road related area, such as a footpath, to enter (section 74) or leave (section 75) a road (for example, to pull into or out of a driveway). Bike riders were already protected by the relevant give way rules in these sections and so no change was necessary.

I echo your comments about the importance of public education and awareness in relation to the QRR. The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) undertakes comprehensive communication campaigns associated with all major QRR changes. A significant statewide campaign was rolled out to support the PMD reforms. This included social media advertising and billboards in key locations. TMR has also produced a range of educational materials that have been provided to schools, universities, local councils and the Queensland Police Service. For more information about the PMD campaign, visit the StreetSmarts website at <https://streetsmarts.initiatives.qld.gov.au/pmd>.

While every attempt is made to ensure communication campaigns and educational materials are comprehensive and far reaching, there is a need to focus messaging on key issues to ensure cut through and engagement with the audience. As such, much of the focus of the PMD campaign was focused on PMD rider behaviour, which was identified as a key problem.

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As part of the PMD reforms, TMR undertook a comprehensive review of PrepL, which is the online learning and assessment course that applicants for a learner licence must complete. As part of this, changes were made to cover the give way rules at intersections and slip lanes, including the rules relating to bike riders.

I acknowledge that more can still be done to ensure drivers are aware of give way protections for bike riders at intersections and slip lanes, and I have asked TMR to look into this further as well as to review relevant web content to ensure it is clear and consistent.

While the QRR is an important aspect in creating a safe road environment for bike riders, it is essential that we take a broad focus to this issue. The Palaszczuk Government is committed to making riding a bike an easy, convenient and enjoyable way to travel, wherever you live in Queensland, and has committed more than \$268.8 million from 2022–23 to 2025–26 towards active transport initiatives, including bikeways, shared paths and bridges across the state.

Finally, I look forward to your further correspondence relating to a broader review of the QRR to support safer outcomes for bike riders.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Bailey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down towards the text below.

**MARK BAILEY MP**  
**Minister for Transport and Main Roads**