



Melinda Pavey
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight

MEDIA RELEASE

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A SAFE SPACE FOR CYCLISTS

After a successful two year trial the Minimum Passing Distance Rule will be made permanent to improve the safety of both cyclists and drivers on our roads.

The Minimum Passing Distance Rule requires drivers to leave a safe space when passing cyclists, placing safety at the forefront of people's minds.

KEY POINTS:

Under the rule drivers who pass cyclists must leave a distance of:

- At least one metre when the speed limit of 60km/h and below
- At least 1.5 metres where the speed limit is above 60km/h.
- Motorists who don't comply will receive a \$330 fine and loss of two demerit points.

Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey said an independent evaluation of the trial estimated a 15 per cent reduction in bicycle to vehicle casualty crashes.

"Cycling is an increasingly popular mode of transport and recreational activity, and this rule will help ensure the safety of all road users," Mrs Pavey said.

Under the trial, 81 per cent of cyclists and 69 per cent of drivers supported the rule. This shows that minimum passing distances is helping to build respect amongst road users for each other's space and safety.

Some exemptions to the road rules are in place for drivers to assist them comply with the Minimum Passing Distance Rule. This includes drivers being permitted to cross centre lines when passing a cyclist, only if they have a clear view of any approaching traffic and it is safe to pass.

Further information can be found at:

<http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/go-together/index.html>

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