



Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
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The Honourable Bart Mellish MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads
and Minister for Digital Services
GPO Box 2644
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via Email: transportandmainroads@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

I write to you on behalf of Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group (CBD BUG) members to request your Department actively educates drivers on the road rules for giving way to pedestrians and bicycle or personal mobility device riders.

The experience of our members is that there is a widespread lack of awareness among motor vehicle drivers about them needing to give way to pedestrians and bicycle and PMD riders on or entering a road drivers may be turning into or entering. This is especially concerning when drivers are using a slip lane to turn left, as in such a situation they are usually travelling fast and primarily looking only for other motorists approaching from their right.

Another commonly unpleasant and unsafe situation for bicycle riders and other vulnerable road users occurs when drivers are entering or leaving a road from private property or a driveway. In these situations drivers are generally only looking right for vehicles approaching along on the road and not looking for vulnerable road users travelling along the footpath.

It is disappointing that given the danger to vulnerable road users from these situations there is so little effort made by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) to improve safety by educating drivers on:

1. the give way rules applicable in these situations, and
2. the need to look for all approaching road users and not just other motor vehicles.

There are a number of channels available that would enable an education campaign targeted specifically for drivers on these obligations that could include:

- back of buses
- radio (especially during the morning and evening peak travel periods when many drivers are in their vehicles), and
- roadside billboards.

Social media may also offer opportunities – but comments/responses need to be controlled to prevent trolling, as allowing such comments to remain visible only reinforces anti-social on-line behaviour.

CBD BUG members also hold concerns about the focus of the limited road rule education efforts already occurring. On 11 March 2024 we were pleased to see your Department using social media to educate drivers by asking the question “Can you be fined for queuing across a pedestrian crossing?”

(<https://www.facebook.com/TMRQld/posts/pfbid02VH7dt7Ex3GECBZW6KGNJYSTvjygNpH6AtECzmn3YyjPQtgfFmTviXn5fZrCXhZ9GI>).

However, given the rarity today of the zebra-striped Children’s Crossing depicted in this post we question the benefit of this message. Instead, a much more common situation is drivers queuing across lights-controlled intersections and obstructing cyclists and other vulnerable road users wanting to cross.

Additionally, given the prevalence of dangerous road rule breaking by drivers we also question why we are seeing TMR social media posts about very rare issues concerning bicycle riders - such as on 18 March 2024 when the issue was raised of “Are you allowed to take your dog for a run while riding your bicycle?”

(<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=736835451921369&set=a.117470310524556>).

Accordingly, in developing the safety / educational messaging to target drivers it is suggested this is informed by infringements and road crash data analysis - to identify and prioritise messaging on the most commonly occurring events, and the most serious events in terms of the resulting injuries and lives lost.

I look forward to your response on these issues.

Yours faithfully

Paul French

Paul French
Co-convenor
Brisbane CBD BUG
12 April 2024

Cc: Bicycle Queensland
Space for Cycling Brisbane