

RU1M CYCLE SAFETY FACT SHEET



New minimum passing distance rules were introduced in Queensland to protect cyclists.

The rules provide clarity around a distance most motorists already provide when passing cyclists. The aim is also to make drivers more aware of cyclists, who are vulnerable road users.

Logan City Council supports safer roads for all – our RU1m campaign seeks to raise awareness of the new laws and increase road user safety through education.

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM PASSING DISTANCE RULE?

By law, motorists must now adhere to a minimum passing distance of:

- a minimum of **1 metre** when passing cyclists in a **60km/h or less speed zone**
- at least **1.5 metres** where the speed limit is over **60km/h**.

The rule applies whenever a motorist is passing a cyclist travelling in the same direction.

The penalty for motorists who break the rule is three demerit points and a fine of \$341. A maximum fine of \$4,554 can apply if the matter goes to court.

SAFETY ADVICE FOR CYCLISTS

Responsible cycling means following the road rules. Cyclists who don't follow the road rules put themselves and other road users at risk.

Although the minimum passing distance does not apply to cyclists passing motorists, cyclists are expected to keep a safe distance when passing other traffic.

As legitimate road users, cyclists must obey the same road rules as motorists, and will now receive fines equal to motorists' fines for disobeying road rules. Penalties will also be increased for rules that are specific to you as a cyclist.

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(continued)



SAFETY ADVICE FOR MOTORISTS

To pass a cyclist, as long as you do so safely, you can:

- Drive over centre line/s on a two-way road
- Straddle or cross a lane line (including a continuous lane line) on a multi-lane road
- Drive on a painted island to pass a cyclist on a multi-lane road
- Cross the centre of the road where there is a broken centre line or no centre line.

Whenever you pass a cyclist, you must:

- Indicate right long enough to warn other road users you are about to change direction to pass a cyclist, then
- Indicate left when you have passed the cyclist and are moving back to your original position on the road.

If you have stopped, for example at traffic lights or in a line of traffic, and a cyclist stops beside you within the minimum passing distance, you have not committed an offence. When the traffic starts moving let the cyclist ride ahead, and only overtake the cyclist when you can safely leave the minimum passing distance.

On the road, you may sometimes find yourself in a situation where you are unsure of what to do. Always apply common sense, obey the rules and remember:

1. Check your surroundings and the cars around you
2. If it is safe to do so, indicate and pass the cyclist at the minimum distance
3. If not, slow down and wait until it is safe to pass.

MORE INFORMATION

For tips on road safety and further information on how to safely abide by the new cycling laws, visit our website

www.logan.qld.gov.au/ru1m