

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Personal Choice and Community Impacts.

From Kathy Francis on behalf of Freestyle Cyclists Inc.

This submission takes the form of a transcript of comments made by signatories to our on-line petition.

The signatories to our petition were verified by email. Only 1 comment was allowed for each person who signed the petition. Only Australian residents have been included. People who made comments but who wished to remain anonymous were also excluded.

"It's time to get rid of bicycle helmet laws"

Luke Turner

"I would love to have the option to (legally) not wear a helmet, I know it puts a lot of people off riding a bike and obesity is a much bigger problem here than bicycle accidents...."

Adrian Critchlow

"Restore bike users rights also greater freedom don't forget you can also join or vote for the LDP (Liberal Democrats)."

stephen

"I'm 17, and use my beautiful bikes (yes multiple, they're just all so gorgeous) to get to and from college, the shops, social gatherings, pretty much anything; rain, hail, shine or -6 degrees. I always wore my helmet out of habit, until two years ago when I first wondered why we wear them but practically no one else in the world does. I look forward to seeing the relaxing (hopefully revoking) of helmet laws in the not to distant future. In spite of the laws I will continue to enjoy the wind in my hair. Also riding a bike with your umbrella while wearing a helmet, just looks silly (the helmet not the umbrella)."

Nicklaus Mahony

"Not cycling is more dangerous than cycling without a helmet"

Dave Kinhead

"Mandatory Helmet Law does definately impact the uptake of casual, recreational cycling. Sports cyclist will always wear helmet but recreational cycling does not have the same risk given the low speed and increased use of bike/foot paths."

Shaun

"Optional helmets for bikes! For all low speed, recreational and commuting cycling makes sense. Your choice if you feel better with helmet. Make roads safer for cyclists. Much more car, truck, bus-driver cyclist awareness is urgently required."

Wolfgang Spranz

"Cycling is a safe activity that must be promoted for the health of the people and for our cities and towns"

Jamie K

"On board and as an initial advocate of WA and their introduction of Australia's first compulsory helmet legislation. I admit I was wrong in 1988. We do not need compulsory helmet laws. We need re humanised cities."

Paul Richards

"greatstuff!"

Sue Abbott

"Helmets just may help in an accident, but the many folk who are deterred from cycling by the helmet laws risk death by stroke and heart failure, surely a vast negative where helmets are concerned. On bike paths, helmets seem more like deterrents to cycling, and there is no reason for them in those largely protected areas."

Darren Room

"Great initiative. I've experienced the bike share scheme in Washington DC when there for work, and it's fantastic. With mandatory helmets it just doesn't work - especially for office workers and tourists. I think that if you limit the area within which helmets are optional (ie. to areas of slow traffic or good bike lanes such as the CBD) then any safety risks can be minimized. Ultimately, the more cyclists there are on the road, the safer we are (just look at China, where I've also ridden and never felt safer!). If I can help out with this initiative in any way, please let me know. Cheers Josh"

Josh Simons

"Helmet law adds insult to injury, when so little is done to protect cyclists with real change on the roads"

Nicholas Dow

"The helmet law is based on two lies: Cycling is dangerous & a polystyrene hat make it 'safe'. Time to stop this nonsense."

Harvey

"A well-intentioned but deeply flawed law. It has to go."

St Etienne

"Australians must learn to be less insular and not assume we always have the 'best practice'. If we can't end MHL, what hope is there of more difficult challenges?"

Raymond

"Repeal this nanny state law. Bring Australia into line with the rest of the world."

Geoff McLeod

"A well-intentioned law has had disastrous consequences. Time to rethink MHL"

Kathryn Wright

"Silly law, we should have a choice."

David Stover

" this is really important wish more people could understand how this law could devastate the quality of our urban lives."

roger winnett

"Very glad to be reminded of this initiative. Sorry to have been lax in not joining before. As you know I've films to contribute but also bike art. I'm convinced that the cachet and status normally attached to art, can be very useful. My bike art never features helmets since quite apart from efficacy issues, I find they render cycling ugly and uniform. I think when people get a taste for graceful bike images and put them on their walls where they will naturally get constant eye times, we will have done one small step to our goal. I am happy to donate some bike art to

be placed on strategically chose walls to test my theory. You supply a a helmet believer prepared to wall my work, and I'll do the rest. Whilst the findings may not be scientific, at the very least this could generate press coverage of a positive sort and resulting public curiosity."

Mike Rubbo

"While it remains illegal to ride without a helmet, I'll keep driving my car."

David Stockman

"MHL make ashamed to be an Australian"

John Burke

"The helmet law experiment has failed. It's time for us to face up to this fact and repeal these silly laws."

Tom Nockolds

"I like the proposed TV ads. Keep it up and I think you need a donate button somewhere."

Chris Morrison

"Suggest it should be mandatory for minors but 18+ and over it should be a persons our choice.."

andrew shaw

"Cycle helmets are not recommended for use outdoors so s326 qld crim code means you don't have to pay the fine. I proved it in court."

Savenaturefree

"I'd be wearing a helmet irrespective of the helmet law, but if a no helmet policy were adopted that promotes more cyclists then by all means. I rode without a helmet when i was just a kid and cannot remember head injuries, a lot of knees and elbows yes."

joe stelmann

"If you want to wear a helmet then good for you. But don't fine me if I choose not to"

Markie Linhart

"helmets may stop some head injuries but aint gonna stop ya neck or back breakin. they r a waste of time! ive ben riding for 20 years and not once have i thought thank god i had a helmet on"

sean craig

"law has not worked, time for commonsense"

david ross

"choice is good"

matt rooke

"My own head was saved from injury when I had a fall riding to work alost 20 years ago. But helmet law needs reform to encourage young people to ride!"

Lubosh Hanuska

"Continue your good Freestyle Cyclists."

Callum Dwyer

"Helmets good. Helmet laws bad."

Jonathan Lovelock

"The number of cyclists dropped dramatically when helmet laws were introduced, making it more dangerous for cyclists, as drivers are no longer used to looking out for bike riders. It's also used by governments to get off the hook to provide safer infrastructure for cyclists, which is what would really help. Also it's been shown that drivers give a person wearing a helmet less room than one not, because of the perceived safety."

Melissa

"The data on relative health benefits make this a no brainer."

Tony Smith

"Helmet laws are a disincentive to cycling!!"

Sandro Nocentini

"Get rid of this discriminatory and unnecessary law. It cuts my cycling down that I'm forced to drive to shops and gaining weight through less chance to exercise. In 30yrs I've never had a close call on a bike because my own safety decisions outweigh anything that a thin piece of styrofoam on my head can achieve."

Tom Ormond

"Yes stop the socialiaist nazis freedom for all!!"

David Irving

"I have accumulated over 20,000 in helmet and 'bike defect' related fines. I have always felt targeted by police. I had my house broken into 2 years ago, I had lost everyhting. I have scince never recieved a follow up phone call. I have been continuously fined for no helmet in the meantime. I always tell the police to F%^ Off and go arrest the who broke into my house, I hate this law. I never wear a helmet, and never will."

Jimmy

"Can't wait to decriminalize feeling the wind in your hair"

Catherine Meister

"Sensible laws not excessive laws."

Raili Simojoki

"Since moving to Australia, I have ceased cycling, as I refuse to be complicit in accepting helmet legislation. Signed - PBP Ancien and daily cyclist."

Phillip

"How close are we to removing the requirement for bicycle helmets?"

Garry Swan

"I ride a lot, my bike is my only transport. When I am riding hard and fast, I have no problem wearing a helmet but think the wearing of a helmet should be a personal choice."

Hugh Fathers

"It should not be a criminal offence to feel the wind in your hair!"

Dan Woodall

"Over 20 years of this experiment and still no proof that it has provided any benefit to Australian society. Time to repeal MHL."

Neil Irvine

"Get rid of this silly law. However, I will still mostly wear a helmet when I'm out riding."

Jim Lewis

"I haven't worn a helmet for years. Cycling is much more enjoyable without a helmet. Stats show negligible reduction in head injuries specific to cyclists since helmet law introduction. Pedestrians and car occupants don't wear them, why should cyclists? Cyclist safety comes through appropriate facilities and driver education."

Michael Martucci

"Over 20 years ago in the UK I joined an organization to repeal the motorcycle helmet law. I never dreamt a country would have one for pushbikes. See those hire bikes in racks in Melbourne? They stay in the racks - guess why, no one is going to be bothered to go get a helmet, no matter how cheap. It takes the spontaneity away. Overseas tourists must laugh at them."

Robert Glenton

"Mandatory helmet use was brought into Australia at a time when the road environment and driver culture was so appalling something needed to be done to try and protect cyclists. But times change, and if we are serious about getting more people onto their bikes then we need some common sense and relaxation of helmet laws. ALL civilised countries with high bicycle use do not have compulsory helmet laws."

russell kingdom

"Using 'common sense' prevents understanding anything counterintuitive. Laws about helmets are sensible on the surface, but have had a detrimental effect on cyclist safety overall."

Glenn Fisher

"Have the right to choose!"
Vivian Gauntlett

"Bicycle helmets don't reduce the risk of severe brain injury and are likely to aggravate it."
Bill Curnow

"I have been arrested and handcuffed and now have to face court for my refusal to wear a helmet. This is a ridiculous law and does far more harm than good. Great someone is finally doing something about it."
kellie andrews

"Bike helmet laws should be lifted, I don't want to live in a nanny state."
Ben Catherwood

"I've been involved in some horrendous crashes, one putting me in hospital, helmets unscathed every time - they haven't saved me yet. I'd wear one on the longer rides/commutes but for buzzing around town on the bike share system it is really inconvenient to carry a helmet when not on the bike"
roger hammond

"Cars are more dangerous, cars pose the most danger, cars cause most death. Have car drivers use only their lanes and have car drivers drive slower and have car drivers wear helmets."
Dollo

"I agree with helmets on public roads, but not on cycleway paths ... cycling is a delightful past time, great exercise and fun especially in the summer. I do not wear a helmet - they're uncomfortable and not needed on paths stop parenting people!!"
Annie

"Please no more nanny state"
Derek Kimberley

"No CHLs=more riding=better health. Evidence: rest of the world."

Prof. Simon Batterbury

"always use my helmet for road training and mtb, (and racing of course) but would love the option when cruising on the 26 inch with apehangers...."

mick groom

"Yes, give us a choice!"

James Corless

"Let it be a choice to wear helmets"

Debbie Saenschnitter

"I have cycled in several European countries where helmets are not compulsory and was impressed with the feelings of safety and the high standard of bicycle infrastructure"

Wendy Bell

"I don't ride a bike at all because of helmet laws."

L Dawes

"Address road danger at source, which means stopping with bad driving not making people wear ineffective plastic buckets on their head"

Michael Cavenett

"It is my choice I pedal slowly for quiet enjoyment to appreciate the world around me."

Mike hamilton

"I believe that it is sensible to wear a helmet when riding a long distance, and that children should always wear them. However I think that the compulsion to do so discourages people, especially women, from doing short trips by bike."

Julia Blunden

"We need to get more people cycling!! Remove the barriers to someone enjoying a leisurely cycle down to the shops or along a bike path. It will reduce traffic congestion and increase the options for healthy moderate exercise. This law is unjust as it creates a victimless crime!"

roddy.peeper@gmail.com

"I'll almost certainly continue to wear my helmet for most journeys, but I'll appreciate not having to hunt it down and carry it around when all I want to do is pop round the corner to the shops."

Jason Brown

"Cyclists should have the choice to wear a helmet or not."

Mark Heydon

"Good idea."

Eddy Knopper

"The decision to wear a helmet should be up to the individual rider."

Bronwyn

"Encouraging people to cycle will save more lives and money than mandatory helmet legislation ever will."

Michael Gratton

"free bicycles too"

Thomas

"I think helmets should be compulsory for children, optional for adults"

Cathy Whiteman

"helmet choice for adults pass some laws we need"

bob bennett

"Back on ya bike!"

Daniel Taylor

"I know for a fact more people used to cycle before this law came into being - including myself"

Steven

"until cigaretts and alchol are illegal ,give me my right to choose -fair go - i am 61 yrs old and i would like to ride as i have done all my life before this law put me off"

gavin aitchison

"I have been riding bicycles for 40 years. the ONLY time my life has EVER been at risk while riding was while (and because) I was wearing a helmet. yes, that's right, wearing a helmet has almost cost me my life on 3 separate occasions."

Adam Griffiths

"In Darwin, cyclists on pathways which are shared with pedestrians do not have to wear helmets and must keep to a 20 kmh speed limit. Once cyclists are on the road, mixing with cars, the law requires cyclists to wear helmets. This law recognises that cycling is a safe method of transport but becomes risky when bikes mix with cars."

Elizabeth Creed

"Helmet laws 1) basic depravation of freedom of choice. my head my choice. 3) 2009 study - the laws cost half a billion to economy via health system. and many other studies. laws should be based on scientifically proven priorities. 4)why have we gradually grown into such a relatively fat country? disincentives to a healthy lifestyle. 5) the laws cause global warming if you think about it. climate sceptics tsk tsk. 6) seriously - my head, my choice. piss off. 7) I will still wear a helmet 98% of the time anyway without having to worry about the 2% of awkward/dangerous/unnecessarily criminal situations created by this law. If everyone collectively doesn't wear helmets for a short period of time enforcement will be impossible, laws will be have to be repealed to prevent the government looking bad and we can go back to wearing helmets (or not) in peace. That would be nice."

Timothy Dreager

"im sick of constant harasment by the police geting targeted by lazy cops who

couldnt catch a cold!!!!!!!!!!!!!"
adrian robinson

"i would still wear a helmet for my daily ride but not for the quick trip to the shops"
peter newman

"free and breezy"
Louise

"Bicycle injuries only reduced after the helmet laws were introduced because less people rode bikes."
Neil Purvis

"I wear a helmet and did even before the helmet law was introduced. However making them compulsory is really quite counterproductive as it discourages casual cyclists. Places where helmets are not usually worn do not have significantly higher injury rates. Cycling is not a dangerous activity."
L Siedlecki

"I'd still wear it and get my kids to but i don't think everyone needs to and further more cop a fine if they don't."
KT Wlodarczyk

"Just returned from riding the bike around Europe. Loved the freedom of not having to wear that blasted helmet!"
Pius Ott

"Echoing everyone elses sentiments. It should be a personal choice."
Ashley Fellowes

"I believe it should be optional for anyone over 18 years"
Alan Howlett

"Born I Holland and The helmet is like anything else a free chose I would ride a

bike but helmet looks ridiculous there are more bikes in Holland than in Australia and New Zealand combined No compulsion of helmets"

jJack van Raders

"Helmet laws are nothing but state intrusion. While it can't be argued that wearing a helmet is harmful, being forced to wear one is inconvenient and just another 'thing' the lawyers and politicians are meddling in without need. The State already meddles and intrudes on liberties. We don't need any more."

James Wilson

"Make riding bikes fun again.. the Europeans know how to enjoy themselves with laws aimed to make people happy & healthy!!!"

Brendan Beasley

"Recently travelled through Spain where the various bicycle hire schemes usually made for a fun and fit way to get around without advanced planning. The scheme in Melbourne is just dumb because of the helmet laws and the \$149 fine for not wearing a helmet which is draconian."

lukerohde

"Just make them optional."

Ian Barnes

"we should not be a nanny state. people can use their common sense to decide when a helmet is necessary. i.e. serious road ride - yes trip to the local shop - no"

richard allen

"we need driver and rider road awareness campaigns - cyclists can not always obey the same rules as drivers due to safety issues - helmets down really save lives, a mutual respect on the roads will go much further."

josh

"I believe there are circumstances where helmets should be prioritized when riding over certain speed limits, or in congested traffic / specific roads. I personally ignore helmet restrictions 80% of the time, more often than not receiving warnings and fines / having my tyres let down. It's a risk I bring on myself; I just want to feel the wind blow through my hair."

Thomas Heading

"Please register my support. I may advise you when I go to court..!!"
Andyants

"Someday I won't have to read newspaper reports that say 'the cyclist was hit from behind and killed by a speeding vehicle, but was not wearing a helmet'"
Jon McLeod

"Lets win back this freedom!"
Bill Dimarelos

"We need more people riding, daily."
Sally Windsor

" I grew up on a farm and we did some pretty crazy things ,and am still here at 56,no hands no helmet no shoes I hate the word passive conformity ,but love the word freedom"
Doug Ritchie

"Started ridng my dragster since the age 6, 33 years ago helmet less. went onto a bmx and did more stupid things than I would ever dare to do today and my skull is in one piece. Australia is supposed to be a free country where we are free to make our own choices and decisions. Helmet laws are utter crap. I would choose to wear my helmet on my daily 15km commute but when I go to the shops or for a ride to the park I would rather not wear it."
Stevo

"Be allowed to choose!"
Peter Gallagher

"I think there should be an option for cyclist to legally go without a helmet when they deem it appropriate. It would be great to have the choice to wear one on my rush-hour morning commute to the CBD, but go without one on a short weekend ride to a park or cafe using backstreets or cycle paths. Helmets are clunky and annoying to haul around once off the bike, and the prospect of fines put people

off cycling."

Barbara Fazekas

"After seeing everyone in Stockholm and Copenhagen not wearing helmets, it seems like a great idea to remove the mandate for them for people over 18 here"

Damian Sandow

"Should be up to the individual not law to wear a helmet"

Clark Lee

"freedom of choice, particularly if you ride in public parks and not on the road!"

Adam Smith

"they bought in the law when I was a kid and I got sooo many fines just for doing what I always did. Let it be a choice, great for safety but sometimes cramps your style. Look at Europe, eff off fun police!"

Troy Connelly

"Having lived a portion of my life in Copenhagen, I would dearly love to see a similar cycling culture in Australia. Removing barriers to utility cycling, like mandatory helmets, is a crucial part of enabling that cultural shift. Let's stop doing things to cyclists, and do some things for them."

Tom Sulston

"I would agree with compulsory helmet laws for children, but never for adults."

Trevor Davidson

"Sprawling government control should not extend to me and my bicycle!"

Will Duncan

"I have been a cyclist for approx 15 years, and have lived in many cities in that time. Even in London, with a population of over 8,000,000, did I not have to wear a helmet. I ride for freedom, and that includes freedom of choice. If I want to 'risk' not wearing a helmet, then that should be MY choice"

Gabriella Ferrante

"People should have choice about their helmet use. And Governments should be putting more bikes on the road and more infrastructure to support the use of bikes rather than placing unnecessary restrictions on them"

Alexander Norton

"When I watch cars act around cyclists without helmets they seem to drive more safely (as safe as they should always drive)it's as though the helmet gives a motorist some kind of false security, so I'm still on the fence of whether helmets are in fact a more safe option. Also the danger is only towards one's self, just like junk food, UV from the sun etc... But even those examples may have epigenetic risks when comparing to wearing a helmet."

Daniel Peters

"Helmets are dangerous!!"

Rudy Stoffel

"Yep good idea- a helmet is definitely a safe option but shouldn't be mandatory. The amount of times I've had to head back after leaving the house without it... And been pulled over by the police too."

Dave Tonkin

"Riding around Japan, no one wearing helmets, I wonder what their brain injury rates are as opposed to Australia. I bet there is no difference."

John Nash

"stopped riding my bike when this law was passed .in the early 1990's .put on 25 kilo's since."

david larter

"I concur"

Jackson Gable

"im 54 years old, been riding since about 7, im old enough to make my own decicions. i hate the bloody things."

ken scott

"I have ridden cycles since I could walk and have never worn a helmet, The nanny state is still with us."

M Bentley

"This ridiculous law stopped me cycling. Something I had done for many years. Probably wouldn't be so over weight now if I continued."

Chris Webb

"I would always wear a helmet, but I think it should be a personal choice people make not made for them!"

Gordon Leech

"Stop the nanny state!"

Lubo Gregor

"if cyclists face a risk, so do pedestrians!!! now imagine a stupid law that makes us all look like an alien colony!!!"

preet

"587 signatures to date. May it turn into 587,000. Great pics on the site."

Julian Connelly

"I just don't want to wear a helmet."

David Allen

"I don't dress in lycra as I'm not racing, I'm not working on beating my PB time to work or the shops. Helmetless, I am a much more careful and slower rider, avoiding high traffic areas. I'm respectful to pedestrians, dogs, use hand signals, and my bell. I have time to say hello and smile at those I pass along the way. Its very social, friendly, and fun. I'm healthier for it too. If I had to wear a helmet, I would rather not ride a push bike, adding another car and the associated pollution to commuter congestion. Strongly dislike the beat-up engendering fear."

Jenifer Wilder

"I have been against the helmet law since it came in. The evidence demonstrates

that helmets discourage bike use, which means they are WORSE for public health overall. And repealing the law doesn't stop people from wearing a helmet if they wish - it's your head after all!"

Cooper Smout

"Great Idea"

Linden Jensen-Page

"I'm currently working in Paris, where everyone uses the Velib (hire bikes), because they don't have to think about helmets. It's a GREAT way of getting around! They let people smoke using freedom of choice as an argument, what about a healthy activity like cycling? I guess there's not enough tax dollars involved. This is a great initiative, thanks for doing it."

David Reynolds

"The sooner these foul laws are repealed the better. A pox on those who brought them in."

dale luke

"I grew up cycling in the Netherlands - no helmets for cruising on the roads. And I felt safer on my bike. I'd love to have that freedom back again!"

Eveliene Ward

"Having returned from living in Singapore - the queen of nanny states - where I could ride my slow bike helmet free and in complete safety on separated bike paths, it pains me to see how backward Australia still is."

Tom Keeble

"Having written a Thesis about this very topic, I whole heartedly agree that this needs to happen."

Tom Voigtlander

"I'm a grown up, I can look after myself, let ME decide if I wear a helmet or not"

Nick Orloff

"As an adult wearing a helmet should be a choice - Not mandatory."

Zoe Curren

"I shouldn't have to feel hassled to put on a helmet if I'm only riding somewhere, 10-15 minutes away on quiet roads."

Jonathan

"My wife and I rode bike share bikes around Paris for days without wearing helmets. Australian streets are far safer than Paris, but we had absolutely no trouble at any stage. Melbourne's bike share system would explode if helmet laws are removed. I am actually 'pro helmet', but I am anti helmet laws"

Craig Plunkett

"Whilst often I would choose to wear a helmet, I would like the FREEDOM OF CHOICE to not wear one."

Kurt Petersen

"I lived in London for several years, occasionally rode without a helmet, and find it insane that I have to wear a helmet for low speed rides over short distances on quiet roads. It should be my choice depending on circumstances."

Tim Renowden

"I can still remember how much I enjoyed riding my bike as a teen, that was until helmets were made mandatory. I would love to see this law abolished. You'll certainly see me riding alot more if it is..."

George Garofallou

"I agree and not only because I am a born Dutchie where there is no helmet law at all but mostly cos people should be free in their choice! and I sell Birota Bicycles in Aussie ;-)"

Johannes Krygsman

"Let adults choose. Surely we are not arrogant to think Australia and NZ are right and most of the world are wrong"

Batz

"Removing helmet laws will put more emphasis on responsible riding, while

encouraging many more people to ride a bike, this will benefit everyone."
Roy

"Bring back freedom of choice!"
LanternRouge

"as an adult I want the freedom to choose. I would have used the Brisbane scheme many times without this stupid nanny law."
James Alderman

"more cyclists = a safer environment for all + the health benefits undoubtedly outweigh the risks."
Andy Hinks

"Cycling helmet-free is one of life's great pleasures. Give us the freedom to choose."
Kate

"I've been against helmet laws since the start. Count me in."
Matthew Canning

"It's time to admit that the mandatory helmet laws are counterproductive in regards to the health benefits claimed."
Peter Lanius

"If we really wanted to prevent serious injury why not make it mandatory to wear helmets in cars or while playing sports or even jogging... bike helmets should be a choice not a legal impost. Aren't we sick of the nanny state mentality by now... wake up Australia... look around the world and then realise how your rights are being legislated away by small minded bureaucrats."
Howard

"Helmets stop kids riding bikes to school."
Brad Calvert

"We are the laughing stock of Europe when they find out that you have to wear a helmet here and you are fined heavily if you don't. I have been riding for over 40 years and hurt many things when I've fallen off but never once hit my head! If they were really serious about protection they'd make you wear elbow and knee pads but no its all about making money out of spotting you without a helmet, easy revenue collection."

Andrew

"For god's sakes, target the aggressive drivers in Australia, not the cyclists. I have ridden bikes in so many countries in the world without helmets and no issues whatsoever."

Charlotte Kritzinger

"Common sense should prevail."

Richard Wood

"I will always wear a helmet 99% of the time regardless of laws."

Jeremy Tassone

"Just back from France where majority ride without helmets. I am jealous! I don't ride on busy roads but quiet streets and detest a helmet! People over age of 18 should be able to decide for themselves, I don't believe European countries care any less for their citizens by not making them wear helmets."

Sally morris

"People who don't cycle have higher death rates than people who cycle without helmets. It's silly to ban something that's good for health, good for the environment, and, by increasing safety in numbers, makes cycling safer for everyone."

Dr Dorothy L Robinson

"The data is in, MHLs aren't worth the infringement of civil liberty, and bike paths are much better at keeping cyclists safe."

Sundance Bilson-Thompson

"The laws should especially be removed for public bike schemes - a great place to start."

Tristan Cooke

"These helmets are useless"
sean gomm

"I believe everyone has the right to there own safety issues. Quite clearly helmets should be optional. The rest of the world has not followed suit. wonder why"
Jonathan Jeffrey

"i would love to ride a bike without being told that i HAVE to wear a helmet."
helen lord

"It's time to remove this nanny state law"
Simon Wilson

"Let people have a choice and be responsible for themselves. Nannying by the state is disgusting in every form. It is OK to educate people or even discourage from not using helmets (say, by not paying insurance in case of accident etc.), but total ban is not acceptable, both ethically and practically. There are situations when helmets create too much inconvenience which outweighs reduced risk. I don't use the Melbourne Bike Share scheme (and not going to) for this sole reason."

Sergey Khantsis

"Freedom of choice , simple !"
Anne Cvetnic

"Helmets point to much to the dangers of cycling, discouraging riding which has so many benefits."
Jolyon Ellis-Jones

"Good on you. I came to Australia in 1994 from Germany where the Helmet is Optional to this very day. I used to ride the bike a lot for the enjoyment and still do where I feel I do not get caught but do not venture out of bush tracks for fear of the fine. I would give anything to ride the bike to the shops like a free person.... Good Luck !!!!!"

Guido Wagner

"The research stats being cited to support helmet use are redundant. They were collated at the same time there was a significant upgrade in cycle paths and road surfaces. Industry experts globally will confirm this and are skeptical of Victoria's legislation"

Andrew Elam

"I wanna ride"

Dez Uzande

"I lived in Japan for two years and rode my bicycle every day with no helmet just like every one else on there trips to work, shopping or to a restaurant or cafe. The culture of bicycle use is so different from Australia in Japan where people use bicycles all the time for short trips at slow speeds. Australia's mandatory helmet laws are illogical and dissuade many people from using bicycles in there every day lives. Please remove them."

Dr James Worth

"having recently spent time at Cambridge UK where most people cycle to work and university largely thanks to not having to wear a helmet. a delight to behold"

Stephen Dilks

"Remove barriers to cycling."

Oon Poh Tan

"Free us from this burden!"

Trent

"Kids should wear them but adults should take responsibility for own safety"

Colin Trevaskis

"Thanks for existing. I fully suport your effortts."

Peter Robertson

"Recently in London. Most impressed by their bicycle scheme. Obviously a success due to NO HELMETS REQUIRED!"

Jane Potter

"Just got back from Sweden and not a helmet in sight but more cyclists than I could have ever imagined. Helmets are unnecessary and are slowing down the resurgence of cycling in Australia."

Ben Reader

"I'd ride a lot more if I didn't have to wear a helmet. Also, if there were more 'cycle friendly' roads. Also I've read that helmet laws don't improve cyclist safety so there's that."

Jessica Thomas

"I have been riding bike all my youth in Germany, where there is a lot more traffic. We don't wear helmets - but if you want you can! Car driver education about cyclists should be included as part of any driver's license. They need to learn that the road is a shared space. Funny that - it's the cars that cause injury to cyclists, but it's the cyclist who is penalized and has to wear the helmet - go figure."

Nils Gruttner

"As an adult I should be free to choose to wear a helmet or not. On short trips or quiet rides on bike paths I should have the option to not wear a helmet. When riding with traffic I would still wear a helmet. I lived in Montreal for 10 years where cycling is a huge part of the city's culture. They do not have mandatory helmet laws. Because of the lack of mandatory helmets, there is many, many more cyclists on the road, this allows motorists to get used to cyclists and drive accordingly. Montreal has also made a huge investment in segregated bike paths on roads. This is the single biggest change I have found moving to Melbourne, that is the absolute lack of respect for cyclists. If you want to improve the city's standard of living remove helmet laws. This is also the biggest reason why the bike sharing scheme does not and never will work here in Melbourne."

Mark Hallo

"There have been SO many times where I'd love to have ridden my bike to a restaurant or social occasion but haven't as I had to wear a helmet. It should be my choice whether I want to wear a helmet or not."

Mandy Wells

"Ride free, as free as the wind blows."

Anthony Denahy

"Cycling is about lifestyle as well as fitness - helmets ruin the lifestyle element. Helmets also de-humanise cyclists ; motorists see the helmet and not the person. If they could see the person's face properly, they'll see that cyclists are just like them and accordingly act more responsibly."

Brian Dennehy

"I grew up in Melbourne but lived in the UK for 10 years. I believe the helmet law should be relaxed, alongside measures to encourage more respect among all road users."

E Wong

"In Amsterdam - a city with millions of bike riders no one wears helmets!"

Peter Snow

"About time. The bottom line is you can be jailed and have a lifelong criminal record for not wearing a helmet. My body, my responsibility. I don't want a Police officer deciding what is in my best interest. That is not the job of the Police. I alone am responsible for my body and what I decide to do with it, not some State official."

Sean Kenan

"Fully support you, cheers for doing something."

Philip Tarry

"Australia is the Nanny state of the world with this topic. How ridiculous is it that you need a helmet while cruising down the street especially the city bikes that can't go quicker than jogging pace. Hang on, Runners should probably wear helmets in Melbourne. MAJOR RISK!"

Stuart Lord

"The requirement to wear a helmet is ridiculous and I've worked in a Neurosurgery ward before. More people fall off ladders as the surgeons know. It's preventing me from cycling more and the legal requirement for a helmet should

be removed."

Jessica Getty

"We should be encouraged to ride. Doing so will go a long way to reducing the obesity epidemic. Repealing this ignorant and stupid law will not only creating healthy communities, but it's such a waste of money and time for the local police to enforce these policies, causing the public to be acrimonious towards the Police, who are merely public servants, enforcing a law they probably don't believe in themselves."

Adam Barker

"hot days in radelaide just riding to the shop, don't really feel like a helmet on top!"

Daniel

"Just back from Scandinavia and almost no one wears a Helmet or Lycra. We cycled over 250km there but never will cycle here in Victoria because of the Helmet Laws."

Flynn

"I believe everyone over the age of 18 should be able to decide for themselves if they want to wear a helmet or not and not having this choice just shows how much of a nanny state/country we are and that the people of Australia are being held back by these boffin government cronies."

Aaron

"People complain that by not wearing helmets, injured cyclists would add to the government funded health budget. They forget the other side of the equation - that encouraging more cycling will reduce the health costs of a sedentary car-only population."

David McKenzie

"In most other countries helmets are optional. Why is Australia any different? Such a nanny state."

Matt Crompton

"I'm all for cycling without a helmet! I never used to wear a helmet in Sweden and

hate wearing one here in Australia. It hasn't stopped me from riding my bike, but it makes me disappointed that the government are making decisions against people's common sense."

Viktoria Wolff

"It's up to the individual. There's enough dumbing down in the systems of the Western World as it is, one little 'treat' for the people would be to ride to the shops without the stress of receiving a \$200 fine to raise revenue."

Daniel Knight

"As a young driver, I installed safety belts in my car, before they became compulsory, because I could see the advantage of not colliding with the interior of the car in an accident. In fact I once hit my head on the roof going over a bump, and said to myself *That is impossible* Then I looked down and discovered I forgot to fasten my belt. Thus I made a mental note to always fasten it. However when wearing of bicycle helmets became law in this country, I refused to wear one. Why? There are many reasons. Possibly one of the most telling came from lips a primary school boy, when asked why he was wearing a helmet:- *So I wont be hurt if I get hit by a bus* There can be no doubt that while medical researchers and helmet advocates can *prove*; that your head is a little safer inside a helmet *WHEN* your head hits something, or something hits your head, there is little research to show *HOW* much more likely you are to hit something, or something is likely to hit you, when you are *armoured up*. Imagine the other extreme, of riding a bike naked through city traffic, and note just how much more careful you might be to make sure you did not fall off and loose lots of skin! Now we have researchers saying that wearing a helmet lessens to the risk of brain damage by 80%. On the other hand statistics show no real improvement in the reduction of head injuries since the legislation was introduced. Why? One piece of research by a UK professor at the University of Bath showed that motorists gave more passing room to cyclists without helmets than cyclists with helmets! Thus it would seem to me that not only are we more careless when we are *armoured*, but the people around us are also more careless when we are *armoured*. So while we might be safer with the helmet on when and if we hit something, I would argue that we are less likely to hit something when we are NOT wearing a helmet. I would prefer to not have the accident in the 1st place. I also found that helmets made my head hotter and I was more likely to pass out while riding on a hot day. Thus I believe there is a real possibility of helmets CAUSING accidents. I really dont care how light or airy a helmet is supposed to be, I find it a hindrance to my enjoyment of cycling, except if it is cold and raining! Now the British Medical Association showed that despite the risk to injury in cycling, cyclists were so much healthier than motorists, that they lived 20% longer. Thus I would suggest that cost to the public purse from cyclists injuries

from not wearing helmets would be far outweighed by the cost to the public purse from the deduction in people cycling simply due the perceived danger seen from the fact that cycling is so dangerous that people MUST wear helmets, and the fact that many people will not ride a bike if they are forced to wear a helmet. Now am I suggesting that people DONT wear helmets? NO WAY! What I am saying is there is no clear conclusion either way. Thus the choice MUST be an individual one. Each person must be allowed to make his or her own choice depending on their personal values and beliefs."

Ian Sims

"ride helmet free"

Wayne Thompson

"Why do we have to be one of the few countries where you must wear a helmet. What a nanny state ??"

Frank Moes

"As a commuter cyclist since 1974 this law has always been a thorn in my side,pulled over yet again on 25/9/12 by some young copper with an 'attitude', had to walk back home (2k) and get the car"

Robert Paterson

"I take my hat (helmet) off to you for starting this initiative and support you 100%. Legislation like this always follows the law of unintended consequences. i.e. youngsters without helmets are left alone by the police because it is too much trouble to deal with them whereas an old chap like me on his sit up and beg bicycle will get hit with an instant fine. Sanctimonious bossiness by politicians, police and all other officials has become endemic in this country."

John Nankervis

"Thank you for doing this."

David Vlasic

"while i support this, i firmly believe that not only laws have to change but also community attitudes towards bike riders. good luck!"

adam baker

"Australia must get ordinary people, as well as lycras, riding again. We are out of step with the world"

Robin Sharp

"We're used to cycling helmet free in the UK. We're happy to wear helmets on busy roads but object to feeling like lawbreakers when we don't wear our helmets on cycle paths, cycling across parks etc. We love to feel the wind in our hair - it's part of the joy of cycling."

Jessica Pledger

"Are there any research/laws about mounting helmet lights/batteries on helmets as IMHO it compromises the safety features so might as well not be wearing one :) I would be dead if I had one mounted on my helmet as I kissed the bitumen vertically after going in the side of a car that 'failed to give way' :(Split the helmet, absorbed the shock and got away with a severely damaged back and no paralysis."

Alan Tonkin

"all for it."

martine murray

"The compulsory helmet law has convinced people that cycling is dangerous...and it's not. The law is misplaced. Encourage more people to ride by changing the law."

Roisin Kelly

"i would ride a bike if i woudn't be forced to wear a helmet."

Jurgen Dros

"This law just stopped me buying a pushbike to ride along the seafront for recreation. Pretty sad."

Pete Davids

"Have been to Scandinavia this year where thousands of people ride their bikes with making their own choice of wearing a helmet. It was a beautiful thing to see so many people of different people of ages and backgrounds leisurely riding their bikes. Even in Singapore helmets are not mandatory."

Heidi

"Great idea."

Lifon

"Pre cameras 1990s cars 75/80kmh in 60kmh zone cyclist 25/30kmh speed differential 50kmh.Now 25/30kmh differential."

Anthony Barnes

"I would ride more often if I could without a helmet. It should be a choice to ride with or without a helmet. If in busy traffic I would wear a helmet."

John Vandekolk

"My son was one of the kids who stopped riding when the helmet law came in. Get kids back on bikes."

Gert Brorsen

"they allow you to ride at the skate park with out a helmet, why not down the foot path"

robert bennett

"We can't call ourselves a free country with laws like this. If you can't have a nice leisurely ride through a park without getting hassled by cops there is something wrong."

Glen Paynter

"I am a 60+ years cyclist who has never worn a helmet and never will !"

SGBushell

"Bicycle helmets are important, having saved my life; but the law should be removed, so police can focus on more important issues."

Robert Anthony de Roos

"I always wear a helmet as my bike is my primary means of transport. However, I see the benefit in reforming the laws as occasional, casual riders should have the

right to do as they please."

Billeigh Waaha

"Quite honestly, I do not see the point in bike helmets unless you are competing in events where there are large numbers of cyclists in groups or close proximity to each other. Additionally it should be left to the choice of the individual. Not be mandated in law!"

Eric Buggee

"Choice"

James Gathercole

"The more cyclists the safer it is for everyone. Relaxing helmet rules means more cyclists. It is as simple as that."

Brad Pettitt

"Well being one of the only countries in the world with having helmet law for bicycles it's fair to say every other country does not have one. I'm well traveled to most continents around the world and I enjoy the freedom to choose to wear my helmet when I feel the need. As I ride bmx at skateparks and where ever I'm going to do tricks and not just commute, I wear a helmet every time I do my hobby. I'm a very experienced rider and ride with all the rules we have in Australia but helmets should not be part of them. Even alot of western countires and so on don't have helmet law for motorcycles. Please review this law and give back our freedom to choose. Thank you."

Adam Hough

"its not like 80% of the other contrys in the world have helmet laws isnt our head just as hard"

rhys dennis

"I have been riding bikes constantly since I was 3, and professionally from the age of 18. I am discouraged to ride the roads due to the helmet laws. Freedom is in choice."

Michael

"I vote for no helmet law, and the freedom to choose to where one or not. You

don't have to wear a life vest while swimming at the roughest beaches in Aus, but we have the choice!"

Cori Hough

"I think this law is ridiculous. I've had several fines over the years (seeing it go from \$20 up to \$120 also) and most from just buzzing down the shop maybe a few hundred meters away. Tasmania has a large problem with obesity and laziness. I think the fact that it's law to wear a helmet really puts people off, especially if they just want to go for a cruise around the paved paths here. Get rid of this law."

Heath Holden

"FREEDOM"

Simon Ladgrove

"Removing barriers to utility cycling & the associated health benefits to individuals benefit the whole community (lower cardiovascular risk, less car/public transport congestion, safer for cyclists with increased numbers raising bike awareness/encouraging infrastructure development."

Robert

"Hope the law is changed!"

Darren Anderson

"Choice. We live in a nanny state, and the government really needs to start realising that when their citizens have more choice in the things they do, it will lead to a happier, safer future."

Aaron Gorton

"It should be everyone's own choice if they decide to risk their life or not"

Robbie G

"There are many occasions where I would like to ride without a helmet and many where I have the sense to know my speed requires additional protection. I am a grown-up and feel I am capable of making the right choice. For the rest of the world, I'd like to see you all make more bike journeys - particularly the daily commute. Repealing this nanny-state law will help to get peeps on 2 wheels and

off 4."

Andy Barrow

"I have just returned from a year in Japan, where everyone from young children to the elderly rides bikes to get from A to B without helmets. For Australia to develop a strong urban bicycle culture, the helmet law should be reconsidered."

Susanne Newton

"I think the majority of people are switched on enough to keep an eye on there surroundings. Also didn't realise riding on footpaths was illegal til just the other day, probly a few more issues that need resolving too"

Ray Storer

"To be consistent, helmets should be compulsory for climbing stairs, ladders, showering, driving, and crossing roads."

phil colbourn

"Would be nice to ride to the shop without being treated like a criminal if you don't have a helmet on. Also the rising cost of a fine is out of hand."

Luke Batchelor

"I would choose to wear a helmet, but the choice of whether to wear one should be left to the individual."

Bruce Pickering

"Wake up Australia. This law is a joke!"

Derek Pigdon

"After the cycle helmet law was introduced in Australia, cycling declined by 50% and the accident rate per cyclist increased. Cities that have successfully mainstreamed cycling - London, Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen - all make helmet wearing a free choice. It should be a free choice. Because cycling regularly is good for you, your wallet, and the planet. It also cures traffic congestion!"

Dr Matthew Hardy

"Good work!"

Rona Hayes

"Give me back my freedom of choice:) If i do choose to wear a helmet on certain rides let me wear my old style danish stack hat that will not explode on first impact."

Tim Matthews

"Fantastic idea! Bring back our freedom of choice. It would be great to be able to ride the fifty metres to the local milk bar without having to strap on a helmet."

Jessica Macqueen

"I support this campaign. We need to alter motorist culture in both Australia and New Zealand. Increasing the presence of cyclists on the roads improves driver consciousness. Cycling as the primary means of localised transport has to be the way for our cities - policy should be doing everything it can to ensure this."

R.Walker

"Because I believe that legislating against choice that has no impact outside the individual making that choice is wrong."

luke anderson

"I want to be able to choose instead of being TOLD what to do"

Sonya murray

"How about we rejoin the rest of the world on this issue?"

Michael

"I have been totally against the compulsory helmet law since its introduction in WA. It has prevented me from riding my bike when I feel like it but at times I do risk riding safely without my helmet. I would like to be treated like a mature responsible adult."

Gordon Cvetkovski

"Adults should be able to choose, whats more dangerous is people parking in cycling lanes!"

Gary Brammer

"Just returned from the UK and it was wonderful to see so many people out and about riding their bikes. Some had helmets, some didn't. Some were just out for a casual ride to the high street. Others were in business suits on their way to work. Made such a contrast to Brisbane where the only cyclists we see are the lycra-clad brigade."

Jason Kerr

"I would ride my bike everywhere if it wasn't for the need to wear helmets that give me hat hair and do not feel comfortable"

Andrew Luke

"Compulsory for kids, but adults should have the choice, especially for short trips away from main roads"

Andrew Spriggs

"An exemption for bike sharing schemes, at least, is necessary for bike sharing schemes to succeed."

Richard Bean

"Casual riding should be encouraged and not legislated as being dangerous."

Tom Young

"I would ride more often if I didn't need a helmet. I have 2 bikes and use the Melbourne blue bikes. Of my two bikes one is a commuter and one a fast road bike. I think I would always wear a helmet on the fast bike because of the nature of the cycling. But the commuter and blue bikes are short slow trips around town and they both allow me to sit up high"

Wendy Dun

"It also shows that we are sick and tired of government controlling every aspect of our lives - PLEASE, LEAVE US ALONE!"

Bruce Robertson

"We've done 20 years of this silly law. Let's get Aussies back on bikes."

Richard Powell

"Being forced to wear a helmet under the threat of financial punishment means that I don't use my bicycle any where near as much as I would if I could ride without a helmet."

Stuart McMillan

"I love my country, however i'm fed up being beaten into submission by nanny state laws that take away my rights to make and be responsible for my own decisions in a free and democratic country. Cheers: Peter Sander"

Peter Sander

"Choice."

Alissa Giarratana

"In full support of repealing this illogical law!"

William Watt

"I give my full support to you guys. I have crashed my bike at least 10 times, helmet does nothing unless you hit an acute angle on impact (that all the test studies miraculously seem to hit). It is so strange that people out there for wearing helmets are generally fat slobs that have never ridden a bike. Always with the same old claim, 'helmets save lives', to them I say broaden your mind and look around the world!!!"

James Talbot

"Hurry up and get this sorted so we can catch up to the rest of the world!"

Damian

"More power to your elbow. This stupid blanket law must be repealed. Why can't a distinction be made between sport cycle and gentle riding of an upright commuter/shopping bike?"

Johann Nankervis

"Bike helmet laws have encouraged a cycling culture that is aggressive and elitist. Cycling can and should be fun but bike laws have made some people fearful of

it."

Leo Hogan

"It's been shown that mandatory helmet laws are a deterrent to cycling, and this has lots of consequences for general health and other cyclists. Choice is what is needed here."

Mathew Marques

"Helmets sold and used should have to pass current and revised safety standards, their use by adults should not be mandated. Required use by children is still a grey area for me."

Wade Roberts

"Great launch today. Preaching to the converted. However now have the info to back it up."

Nick stone

"Cycling since 1967 and only 2 major accidents. first at 30 or so kilometres per hour in september 1974 pre helmet and side of head impact car failed to give way no detrimental effects apart from 7 hours unconscious 2nd accident fell into hole in bike path outside CERES Merri creek path, faceplant rendered helmet totally ineffective in this accident . Currently wear a helmet so as to not be harrassed by the police!"

Robert Probin

"Happy to have my name down!"

Thomas Z Nightingale

"Compulsory helmet legislation does more harm than good, by discouraging normal people from riding a pushbike. Normal people do not want to be criminals."

Bruce Sutherland

"I'll wear a helmet when surfers wear PFDs"

David Abbott

"People should be given a choice about wearing a helmet or not. Their safety, their choice."

Liz austin

"Wearing a helmet when cycling is sensible, just like wearing a hat in the midday sun, but neither should be mandatory."

Thomas Greig

"It is a great idea which I"

Warangkana Wongcongsawat

"i agree with european nations such as the nederlands etc"

craig b

"I used to ride bicycles years ago and have one rusting in the garage since wearing helmets has become compulsory. Why is it that European countries have a voluntary law for this and are free to choose? Australia has become a dictatorship! I so would love to ride a bike again but I cannot stand restrictions on my head!"

Brigitte Almann

"Even if it were proved beyond doubt helmets improved safety this law still impinges on my right to choose when and how I ride my bicycle. A reasonable compromise would be to keep compulsory helmets for children up to 18 but then it should be at our discretion. After all we can kill ourselves with alcohol and tobacco if we want!!"

Trevor Ockenden

"Helmets are good but they should be a choice and not forced upon us"

Ramon Daez

"hoorah!"

mark ward

"Keep up the good work!!"

Fay Price

"Pro Choice!"

Ben Fisher

"Cycle helmets are killing more hearts than the heads they were supposed to save. Repeal this law now."

David Richens

"I believe bicycle helmets should be mandatory for children, but not adults. This is the law in Ontario, Canada."

Steven Smart

"I am another bike enthusiast that is thinking about giving up riding because I won't wear a helmet as i think it is my own risk and not risking anyone else's. At a certain age you should be able to make your own decision,"

David Ellis

"Down with the Nanny State!"

Christian Kerr

"Hey, I'd ride my bike and be a lot healthier, less fat and not be such a burden on the tax payer if I didn't have to wear a stupid helmet. Just who is making money out of this illogical and disproven regulation?"

Mark Evans

"If smokers can smoke, why do I have to wear a helmet?!!!"

James Jardine

"I support evidence based laws, give the people autonomy and encourage them to live an active, healthy life."

Edwina Lawson

"Instead of forcing people to always wear a helmet time should be spent educating people on when it is best to wear a helmet! Pro choice!"

Kirby Weller

"Though I agree with helmets and would use one more often than not, having lived in Berlin where helmets are not mandatory has shown me the benefits in activite users and riding psyche that options around helmets creates."

Rory O'Maley

"its annoying enough to have my parents tell me to wear a helmet... so why does the government have to get involved in my personal life as well? sure, riding is good for your health, for the street level vibe of places, and for encouraging alternatives to the car... but really my issue is why should the gov care whether or not theres a piece of foam between my head and the windscreen of car?"

sam newman

"Helmets are far too hot, even the best-ventilated ones. Wearing one while riding can cause the head to get so hot that severe drug-like effects can result from brain overheating. Symptoms can include severe headaches, blindness from sweat in the eyes, drug- or drunk-like behaviour, unpredictable and extreme violence and, after that, death. Legally, as a result of these effects, helmets can be considered to be drugs. There are laws making it illegal to ride in such a condition, even though we are compelled to do so unsder other laws. So how is it safe for me to get so wasted that I die? If I forced someone to use non-helm"

P Buddery

"It is merely common sense that an adult should be able to assess the risks of his/her own actions and act on it. We should not be recieving outrageously large fine for something which no other country deems a crime."

Daniel J Grant

"No need for bicycle helmet, especially on dedicated bicycle paths."

Tri Setyani

"No helmet law for Freo!"

James Eggleston

"Australian laws are in the Dark Ages. Wake up australia. Most cyclists are angry helmet wearers. I guess the helmets make them so angry. Notice how us cyclists who don't wear helmets actually remember how to smile ? love"

Daniel Van Leeuwen

"We need to follow the example of successful cycling cultures like the Netherlands. Helmets make cycling appear dangerous."

Lorna MacDonald

"Helmets should not be mandatory. Adults riding bikes do not need helmets and they wont help when an out of control car crashes into them... Education will help, education of drivers. Australia does not need these laws. The rest of the world can not be wrong. and we are definitely not leading by example. The attitude of drivers is what IS wrong."

Julian 'yogi' Somosi

"I choose to wear a helmet but resent the fact that I can't choose not to. Sometimes I just want to feel the wind in my hair and on a nice sunny day I'd love to have that option."

Helen Barry

"Removing this law will help cycling grow in australia"

Paul Crees

"I overheat when riding on hot summer days, the esky on my head is the reason."

Robert

"If MHL was scrapped, I'd still wear a helmet on my commute - as I ride via the M4 and in my opinion is high risk. I would not wear a helmet as I trundle down to the shop on my BSO as this is low risk. I have a brain and I'm not afraid to use it so give ME the choice."

Peter Hartshorn

"I am not suggesting that cyclists should not wear helmets. I simply acknowledge the following facts: 1. Physical inactivity is one of the biggest threats to health and well-being. It is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22818941> 2. Cycling is enormously beneficial to both cyclists and society. Helmets have negligible net effect on these relationships. 3. If helmet laws discourage even a very small proportion of people from cycling then the overall effect of the laws on the health of the population is negative."

Martin Turner

"Would much rather have the choice, not every ride requires a helmet..."

Tim Meyer

"Coming from The Netherlands I can only say yes to this proposal. I notice that car drivers are having a far more aggressive approach to cyclists here and guess that it is part to do with the way we are all dressed up here. They think we are very much protected with a helmet... which is not!"

Wilma van Boxtel

"As an adult I am quite capable of assessing the risk involved in a given cycling journey. I would like to be allowed to use my own judgement ,formed through 40 years of safe cycling, and decide for myself whether a particular journey warrants a helmet. I don't need a beaurocracy to make decisions for me ... Return my right to choose!"

Bernie Carpenter

" Thank you for facilitating this cause."

Garry Weicks

"We were recently in Amsterdam and amazed at the huge number of non-helmet wearing cyclists going happily about their business and wished we here in Perth could do likewise."

Margaret Reid

"Just give us the choice."

Victor Brown

"Instead of picking on cyclists, by making them wear helmets, we should start telling motorists to drive correctly around cyclists. We should be creating decent cycling infrastructure, and this would actually make cycling safer and more plesant."

James

"End the nanny state"

Jon

"It's been the worst thing to happen to cycling and the youth of this country to force people off the roads because of these laws."

Tony James

"Originally from the UK, so I find the law here draconian!"

mark

"Also legalise riding on the footpath."

Kim Oldfield

"Stop the police state!"

Paul

"Please ban the helmet!! Can' wait to ride to work everyday not having to wear that silly helmet. I'm Dutch, from Amsterdam and nobody there wears a helmet and it's very safe!"

Rens Tuit

"I cycled before helmet laws were introduced and bought a helmet before the law changed, but I strongly believe helmets should be a personal choice based upon personal cycling habits and risk assessment. Mandatory helmet laws need to be repealed."

John Englart

"what a good idea,free choice in a 'free country'"

phil thompson

"I fully support the move to make the wearing of a helmet while riding a bicycle optional. There are many occasions that don't need a helmet while there are many that make it prudent. I would like to be the arbiter. Ray Firth"

ray firth

"Helmets are good, helmet laws are bloody terrible. Let me ride at 15kmh and not

look like I'm about to drop off a vert ramp."

Gavin Hudson

"since introduction of compulsory bike helmets number of head injuries drop by 20%, at same time number of bike sales drop by 25% and number of cyclists by 40%. therefore bike helmets INCREASED number of head injuries not lower it! i do not ride bike since helmets were made compulsory. and i loved it!"

zyggi

"decrease in head injuries? 20%! decreases in number of cyclists? 40%!"

zyggi

"Cycling is the future of inner-city transport, Australia is waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaayyyyyyyy behind on catching on and providing safe cycle paths, educating motorists that in fact the road is to share and isn't exclusively theirs, and most importantly getting rid of the silly helmet law, everyone else (in the world) has caught on, bout time nannny state Australia did too."

Josephine Bell

"thanks for opportunity to have a say"

Elizabeth Carrigan

"I would love if this worked, but is it really likely the law will ever be repealed? Realistically i doubt it. But thanks for trying!"

Benjamn Keys

"Let the riders decide."

Bernard Hockings

"For all the listed reasons."

Leonid Tkatchenko

"It ain't rocket science...It's as easy as riding a bike"

Lindsay Morrison

"consideration of bikes in all aspects of planning plus the removal of helmet laws will encourage increased cycling within Australia and New Zealand"

Ali

"Let the choice be ours. We can choose whether we can smoke or not and the health risks are far higher."

Alice

"The rest of the entire planet cannot be wrong, the Australian government uses inaccurate and falsified facts that do not exist anywhere else in the world, to convince society riding without a helmet is dangerous. Give us our freedom to choose."

Matthew

"I fully support this movement. Helmets should be encouraged on large rides, on busy roads etc, but should NOT be compulsory - especially for local low speed riding. Otherwise, for consistency (!), helmets should be compulsory for all sport, walking in forests etc."

David Borland

"Helmets should be an option, not something forced onto us with law for push bikes."

Jonathan

"Can we get free motor cyclists too?"

Damian Priest

"Wearing helmets on bicycles should be about choice. For me, I'd probably still wear one when going on long road trips on my road bike - but for short shopping trips and bike trails I find it a nuisance and completely unnecessary. As such, being forced to wear one for fear of being fined, I often choose alternative modes of transport like walking or car."

AndrewR

"We should be free to choose when and when not to wear helmets."

Philip Gillibrand

"Time for change, time to join the rest of the grown-up world and let cyclists choose."

Rob Schieron

"People who refuse to wear a helmet, should be cracked on the head with a police batten."

Gary Price

"There is a french lady living in Scone NSW who sucessfully beat a fine for not wearing a helmet while cycling. Her defence in court was the risk of a twisting neck injury from wearing a helmet."

David Hunt

"I hope this goes through & they change the law as I have just brought myself a vintage bike & to be honest you look silly riding one wearing a helmet"

Claire Stokes

"Making helmets compulsory was no more than a quick and free (for them) way for government(s) to be seen to care about cyclist safety."

Peter Jenkins

"This is the only reason that I don't use a bike for my daily transport."

Haluk Yildirim

"I believe in inform choices for informed adults. I don't want mandatory helmet wearing laws thank you very much - I'll choose if and when I'll wear one!"

Markie Linhart

"Let rational, fact based debate commence!"

Murray Nicholas

"It is great to find and participate in a movement to get rid of one of these ridiculous nanny state laws."

David Landini

"free my head from MHL and make riding a bike more accessable!!"
Michael Williams

"Good job!"
Will Matthews

"Helmets should be an individuals choice."
Trent

"Lived in Potsdam, Germany, where almost everyone owns/uses a bike.
Repealing helmet laws is 1st step to better cycle paths, etc.(need more people riding)."
andrew

"Hope you guys can free our brothers on motorbikes from the helmet tyranny too."
mark

"Mandatory Helmet Laws are a barrier to the use of bikes by everyday people."
Philip Howell

"Mandarory helmet laws do a great disservice to cycling and discourage acrive lifestyle. Helmets should be voluntary and circumstantial. The real culprits in road accidents causing head injuries are care drivers, not cyclists or their helmets."
Joseph

" I have hope one day we can take back responsibility for ourselves -(this should be recognised as the human right it is) Other wise we suffocate."
Shaun Cassidy

"Let me choose."
Graeme Lean

"Choice. It is all about choice. I have been riding in Vienna, Austria for 6 months now without a helmet and am returning to Australia in 2 weeks. In support, I do not intend to wear a helmet when i ride."

steve darvall

"Helmets are gross, especially after a hot sweaty day of work, or a hard workout in the gym; And if they do not even provide adequate protection as lots of research is saying lately then helmets should be totally optional."

Abel Wood

"I believe it should be a choice for any person that rides, not a law Thank you"

Rickie Gravely

"A few days in any European city should be enough evidence that mandatory helmets is a truly silly idea!"

Dylan Nicholson

"I am not a robot"

Warren Hankey

"Silly law designed to convince people that cycling is dangerous."

Michael Boswell

"I am a sikh woman and wear a turban which constrains me from wearing a helmet, I would like to be able to practise my religion and enjoy to ride a bike without a helmet! Not just a bike but perhaps a motorbike :-) Keep up the great effort"

Khajinder Kaur Motizada

"I CAN'T WAIT to cycle LOTS, without an awful helmet!"

Mark E

"About time common sense prevailed. I make thousands of decisions concerning my own safety so I should be able to make this one as well."

Len

"Out trip to Japan was magical thanks to hiring bikes and having the freedom to explore the country. First thing I wanted to do was buy a bike for each family member, then reminded I needed to wear a helmet constantly. They're bulky, hot and doesn't allow you to wear a suitable hat especially if my ride is mainly at the park. I would like a choice."

Jade-Elise Newell

"Wouldn't it be lovely to be treated as if we had a brain and could make choices regarding our own safety !"

maria van den bosch

"Laws requiring mandatory helmet wearing were a typical example of poor decision-making by the ALP Cain/Kirner governments of the late 1980s/early 1990s, which thought they were being at the cutting edge of road safety and that, as with compulsory seatbelt laws, the rest of the world would soon follow, which has clearly not occurred."

Matt Gorman

"I have purchased four helmets since 1990, the first was particularly uncomfortable and the others have been stolen when left with my bicycle (my fault I guess). I haven't ridden since the last theft which was more than 3 years ago."

Glenn Maguire

"People over 50 do not ride because helmets are a hassle"

Peter Snepvangers

"I always wear a helmet. I think it is a good idea. However, I feel that it should be my responsibility to decide whether or not I should wear a helmet."

Tim Martin

"This law is stupid and needs to be put in to question."

Sean O'Mahoney

"Cycling has only become 'dangerous' due to the introduction of compulsory helmets. Where have all the bike racks gone at my old school? I used to have

trouble finding my bike!! Cycling since 5 and still alive!"
Paul Oborn

"Would have started to use my bicycle years ago if I did not have to wear a helmet as I only live 4km away from work. I rode a bicycle to school for 10 years and never wore a helmet and it was fun. Now you just stand out and have messy hair when you get to work! I'm wearing mine just to be able to smile at the police man when he drives past. I decided to cycle again for health reasons but have been putting it off due to the mandatory helmet use and a cheapy is all I'm wearing so what good does that do in any case."

Marjan Prinsloo

"Definitely more people will ride regularly if they don't have to wear a helmet. The risk is way too small compared to the potential benefit. Look at Denmark for example."

Andrew Nguyen

"Helmet law has failed. Bin it now."

Michael Mounteney

"What backwards country are we living in where people can't just ride a fucking bike without worrying about the fucking police. Haven't they got better things to do? Like deal with crime?"

Bianca

"Either make pedestrian helmets mandatory, or repeal this stupid law."

David Doukidis

"I stopped riding my bike to school when this law came in and have hardly ridden it since. I'd rather wear a decent hat to keep the sun off when riding."

Brett Richards

"I PERSONALLY DONT BELIEVE THAT NOT WEARING A HELMET SHOULD BE A OFFENCE,"

JOHN H

"I can't believe we persist with this. The rest of the world has been laughing at us for 25 years."

Sunbird

"I have fallen off a bike many time in my youth and never hid my head once"

Colin

"I have been riding bikes for over 30 years, but I have not touched one since moving to Australia due to the helmet law. Even when i was a teen riding crazy, i never injured my head. If you are a kid, so be it, but for people who are old enough (and pay enough in taxes) we should have our own choice."

Rick N

"I quit CityCycle after the last of the gross share-helmets disappeared, it's just not worth it."

Ash Kyd

"Compulsory Bicycle helmuts are making this country a police state and spoiling the peaceful culture of bicycle riding Communist china does not issue infringements for this unnecessary burdeon.... Australia...GET REAL!Keep the helmuts on in traffic...dont insult us with police intrusion in a park or any other quiet place!"

john conolly

"Sadly don't think you have much chance with Australia's love of litigation and rules, but really hope I'm proven wrong!!"

Michael Rees-Evans

"I would definitely ride more."

Warwick Malone

"Should be the same as horse riding, if under the age of 18 you have to wear helmet while riding on Victoria roads, over 18 your choice. Cyclist could be the same as the law or horses"

Peter Stark

"I just want to have the choice to ride free as the shape of my bald head really does not allow me to comfortably wear a helmet."

Joel Schottlander

"I have been hit by a car while cycling (drivers fault) and I still choose ride without a helmet because helmets over heat the head and cause distracting wind noise than covers up sound of approaching vehicles. My choice does not cause injury to others and it is exactly that, My choice !"

SHANE MARSHALL

"The law should be changed so that anyone below driving age is mandated to wear a helmet."

Jeff McLean

"I believe that as bicycle riders we should have a choice to wear or not to wear a helmet."

Kent Jefferies

"Richard Court's a ***** for bringing this law in in the first place!"

Steve Jarratt

"Defensive & informed riding saves lives on roads, bikeways save lives, Helmets do not."

Shane

"A Bike helmet saved my life. It broke in half on impact, I don't think I would be alive to day with out it. I don't mind if other people don't wear a helmet but I will.
Roger Shead"

Roger Shead

"The failure of the bikeshare scheme in Melbourne is due to this ridiculous compulsion to wear helmets! Sure you can 'purchase' one for \$5 however what sort of protection does this provide? Surely a cheap helmet is merely window dressing ? Time to get this government to wake up to the benefits of riding far outweigh the safety of cheap cycle helmets"

Gerald Smythe

"Forget the revenue ! Do the right thing for the country and encourage bicycling."
Jared Smith

"We should have the freedom to choose. I dont want to wear one when going down the shops. But if you are riding fast it CAN save your life. People shouldnt be in denial about that. I saw my mate's helmet after he hit a pedestrian. Would have been a nasty injury if it was his head that hit the pavement. Be SAFE!"
Shayne Kennedy

"We should not be forced to wear a helmet. This should be a free will item."
Rarpos

"Thoroughly agree - helmet laws have devastated the participation in cycling in Australia."
Stephen Hird

"Tired of the Nanny state telling us how to live our lives."
Andrew Franz

"I used to cycle commute between Hurstville and Taren Point until some idiot ran a red light then tried to do a runner with my bicycle under his torana and me hanging on for dear life on his bonnet after me nearly joining him in his front seat via the windscreen.-That's not the first time. Motorists in Sydney drive SO aggressively more so than other cities."
Keith Lyons

"give us a choice !!"
wayne ashworth

"I would still chose to use a helmet occasionally, just not all the time."
Gilbert Grace

"No helmets for pedestrians, no helmets for cyclists."
michael bode

"Always believed it was a farce! Just an outlet for do-gooders. I'd certainly ride again if the helmet law was dropped."

douglas mccullough

"I totally agree that bike helmets should NOT be compulsory in WA."

Peter Bright

"Why don't the law makers wear helmets in cars if they are so good ???"

Gus Duncan

"We should be free to choose. People who don't wear helmets can choose to be more careful. People who wear helmets have a false sense of security."

Geoff Francis

"To go along with this it might be a good idea to open up some dialogue about improving cycling infrastructure."

Jackson Bellchambers

"Helmet laws are a joke, stop controlling our every move! Give us our rights!"

Marko

"Free to make a choice. Sanity. Death to the nanny state."

Rob Hessing

"to fine a bike rider in this time of environmental crisis (as single occupant cars burn past spewing CO2) is ridiculous. if the state is really concerned about biker safety, they should provide bike lanes on every road and encourage more to ride -- the more ride, the safer it is for all riders."

kyle magee

"It's prudent to wear a helmet but nothing should be compulsory."

Phil Hystek

"Australia is the only country in the world where it is illegal to ride without a

helmet. Respect us by letting us make our own decisions!"
Magda Hughes

"I am from Germany and in 2010 my husband and I cycled 1300kms through Czech Republic, Germany and the Netherlands - without a helmet. I have never felt so safe. Motorists respect cyclists, in fact in the Netherlands a motorist is automatically at least 50% at fault in an accident with a cyclist. I hate helmet hair and this prevents me from cycling."
Gabriele Duffy

"I don't cycle because of having to wear a helmet. The whole point of cycling is to feel free and not just use a bike for sport but also a casual & fun form of transport. As an adult I see it as only my responsibility to be careful on the roads. As for having this law in rotnest - what a joke. It's ridiculous."
Marion emerson

"I have ridden a bike for over 30 years till i moved to australia... since being here, and have now decided i am going to start riding again, without a helmet. the fine is worth not wearing one versus the health implications of not riding at all. I rode for over 30 years without incident.. if it were as dangerous as they make it to be without a helmet, most of us would not be here. they ride bulls without helmets...and the bike isnt bucking you off in 8 seconds or less..."
Rick Nelson

"The repeal of the laws will have little effect on me as I already ride freely without a helmet, get stoppped once a year on average."
John Dow

"I would love to have the option to choose when I wear a helmet and when I don't. I would ride to the local shops more readily if a helmet was not compulsory.
Sharon"
Sharon Bird

"Ridiculous that helmets are compulsory on dedicated bike paths completely separated from cars and traffic."
Dominic Staun

"repeal another of the nanny state laws"
john nobbs

"I'm all for a part repeal of the law, specifically, a helmet should only be required if going fast eg over 25km/h."
Edward Re

"Low speed cycling without a helmet is not a risky activity."
Bhanu Loku

"I prefer to use a helmet when I ride my road bike, but would like to not wear a helmet on a slow cruise to the shops for groceries."
Jason Doyle

"Helmet wearing suggests to non-cyclists that cycling is a dangerous activity. We will never get people out of their cars like this."
Sandra West

"helmets for kids up to the start secondary school then there can be air in your hair"
Romanie Barnes

"The top priority needs to be to get more people riding. Helmets hamper this."
David Hartigan

"Lived in London for a year, rode a boris bike everyday without a helmet! Haven't ridden a bike since being home for 2 years.."
madison heal

"Helmet laws prevent many people from cycling, which makes cycling for the few remaining a lot unsafer! The argument for helmet laws is way to weak."
Leo Broska

"Have been cycling for 50 years, but never so much as scratched my head. It should be a matter of choice."

Neil Torode

"Authorities know helmets deter people from cycling. Look at the Melbourne Bike Share scheme which the Public Transport Minister Terry Mulder acknowledges: 'The big hitch from day one was the issue with helmets,' he said. 'It really wasn't given enough consideration when the program was put into place in Victoria.' It's time exemptions were put in place for bike share users then, when that increases usage, exemptions can be made for adults. Good on youse guys for doing something positive to help achieve helmet 'common-sense!'"

Alexander Irvine

"lets get australia cycling"

bernard newman

"The evidence is in. This is a no brainer, no pun intended. We need some political leadership to get it done - thats the hard part it seems."

andrew mulholland

"Far as I know many European countries don't make wearing of helmets compulsory. Certainly should not be required when riding on bike paths."

paul doobyn

"I am against helmet laws but will continue to wear a helmet under my own free will."

Scott Kirkman

"I was pulled over and given a ticket yesterday and police officer said he didn't agree with the law but he had to protect his own ass by giving the ticket. \$110 dollars for a ride down to the shops."

budhiono bryant

"At this rate we will be fined if we aren't sufficiently bubble wrapped when washing the dishes."

Jared Tinkler

"People should be able to ride in parks and around their homes without a helmet!"

Leave helmets for riders who ride on the road :)"

Nate

"helmet laws are ridiculous and add to over increasing ridiculous laws and regulations. for a so called free democratic society we have more laws and regulations than any communist country in the world."

nigel

"Good luck with this. I hate wearing my helmet but the cops are pretty militant about it in Hobart Tasmania"

Quentin

"I want to have a right to decide if I need a helmet or not. It is my own safety and I do not want to be forced to do it."

Nik Butenko

"I live in west Australia . I hear more and more that we are The Nannie state. ..but on the other hand people think being stupid is an achievement, alas not just teenagers"

David Wright

"total support ban the silly use of a helmet"

Maxmillian Gideon

"helmuts don't save lives"

clayton shipp

"Just been fined \$50 today as I stopped for a coffee in Freo because I was not wearing a bike helmet. I rarely do any road riding and most is done on bike paths."

Andrew Duffield

"no more nanna state thank's"

cameron hunter

"Motorcycle Laws in USA have been repealed in more than 1/2 the states"
Stephen Bryant

"Helmets are great for sports riders but overkill for commuters and shopping. It is like making them compulsory for normal car driving rather than racing."
Peter Mayer

"Helmets are a great accessory for cycling. Compulsion is wrong. Simple."
Paul Anderson

"I hate wearing my helmet."
Eloise Ong

"It's safe to ride without a helmet proven in the busiest cities in the world! Move with the times Australia...."
Lee Jay

"For the health of our environment, our people and our minds, let's join the great cycling cities of the world - to do so requires helmets to be optional."
Dave Holland

"Helmets should quite simply be a personal choicesure they may help in 'head prone' type accidents (eg vehicles), but they are no substitute for defensive riding in the 1st place."
Mike Walker

"Good luck - great idea to have the choice !"
Guy Boston

"Wearing a helmet should be a choice thing as it is in Europe & America."
John Thixton

"Australia will now introduce bicycle helmet exemptions for cyclists on the basis of religious beliefs. Wow! I have never heard of anything so absurd in all my life! So courts now must have the power to determine what is a true religious belief.

How bizarre! How can a court determine what ones belief is? I thought there is supposed to be a total separation between church and or religious belief and the state. Stupid country. So now in basic terms one is to be segregated even penalised and possibly jailed in terms of religious beliefs or non religious beliefs in this case, this is blatant racial and religious vilification at the highest level and is obscene. The whole bicycle helmet law is absolutely ridiculous and flawed from its inception and to fine an Adult for not wearing a helmet \$175 for not wearing one is ludicrous. Yet Australia allows its children , nay almost expects them, who cannot make informed decisions about thier own safety to run headfirst into children twice their size on to public football fields every week only to help fill emergency wards with head injuries, neck injuries, spinal injuries and even death not to mention all the other injuries associated with football. Which costs this country Billions!!! Sane adults should be allowed to make informed decisions about their own safety. Enjoy this new can of worms Australia this sure will make the lawyers rich stupid nanny laws! This NANNY LAW NEEDS TO BE REVOKED ALTOGETHER!"

jac charlton

"such a great initiative. Please keep me updated on the NSW reform as it progresses!"

nick lawrence

"After travelling through Europe I have seen the freedom with which people go about their lives on bikes. None of these people are overweight and their lifestyle is something to be envied. One can only wish for the same freedom of choice at home."

Gavin Stitt

" Having a choice,if you want to wear a helmet,wear one.If you choose not to,then that's OK too"

roy greenan paton

"i have cycled all my life and since having to wear a great lump of plastic/fiberglass on my head in extreme heat is absolutely ridiculous.I just love taking my cycle to Europe and other countries where i as an adult have a choice and feel the wind through my hair.How many MPs have shares in bicyle helmet companies ??"

David Bailey

"Sikh community members in Queensland just got exempt from wearing bicycle helmets. i think it's about time to give everyone else the same right, not having to wear a bicycle helmet. This would only be fair & encourage more people to ride bikes."

Janina Morgenstern

"Great Idea.. Pedal Power... No Polution."

Herbert

"Ride safe and free"

Breda Kelly

"I wear a helmet on my commutes and group rides. It has saved my life. But for short runs, lazing along on a hybrid, I don't think a helmet is necessary. Relaxing law would encourage more people to ride."

Douglas Moore

"I cycle to work everyday and I would probably still use helmet for this kind of journey. But I would like to ride helmet free when riding at leisure - eg locally to shops or parks during weekend"

Tom Nowacki

"Damned nanny state fascism! I quit riding my bike after being warned by some obnoxious copper. Dump the law!"

Jon

"Please get rid of this ridiculous law and let the adult rider decide. Even Britain, mother of all nanny states, allows its citizens to choose. What next - a law to make us wear jumpers when it gets chilly?"

Hal Williams

"Australia - a free country? I choose to wear a helmet when riding on the road if there are cars around. Speak out against the nanny state."

Gary Gray

"Would be great to have freedom of choice , like the rest of the planet does !

Come on Australia lets go ride!"
Phil Alderton

"More kids riding to school would certainly ease traffic congestion around school pick up/drop off times..as we know, helmets are not cool to wear to school so most kids won't ride."
Luke D

"Wearing a helmet on a push bike is like takin a shower in a suite"
Daniele

"Lets get rid of helmet laws in all states - particularly South Australia - where the police appear to have nothing better to do than harass cyclists without helmets on bike tracks!"
Andrew Lieschke

"Stupid law. too much control for the sake of control (aka money - why fine me)"
Calum

"Free police to monitor real crime, not my freedom!"
Susan Rigby

"I have ridden a bike since I was 5 years old - that's 45 years of experience. I rode my bike most everywhere as a child without a helmet and so did all my friends. That was back in the days when children played outdoors every chance they got. I've never sustained a head injury from bike riding in all those years and do not personally know anyone who has. I wear a helmet now, because I am forced to and still it has yet to save me. I think helmets should be personal choice. I like to ride to the shops but have to do so knowing that my hair has been squashed and looks stupid due to the sweat and pressure of the helmet. Vanity perhaps, but not enough to stop me from riding. It is enough to stop others from doing so however. Stop wrapping us in cotton wool and let us have the choice. Next we'll have to wear a helmet to walk down the street. After all we could trip and fall and sustain a head injury just as easily!"
Jill Hardman

"Let me ride without a helmet on the car-free Broadway and keep my helmet for

when I'm on the road!"

Sean Mac

"We live in a nanny state where legislators feel they have to protect us. My friends and I rode bikes for years when, I was young, and somehow we managed to not kill ourselves. Allow someone to just hop on a bike and ride without fear of fines and let them have a bit of choice for once. Parents can still insist their young children wear helmets and those old enough to make their own decisions can do so. Don't treat us all like children."

Gary Irwin

"Stupid law. Makes me cringe at all the unused city bikes paid for by my taxes."

Osman Koc

"Then a state run bike share will work"

John cully

"Cycling helmets are not like seat belts. They discourage riding, which is good for health. These laws do not see the forest for the trees."

Darren Anderson

"Absolutely agree that wearing helmet should be a matter of choice (especially for Boris Johnson)."

George Crisp

"helmets should be recommended for children and not mandatory for adults."

terence barnes

"Put helmets on kids and racers... let adults be responsible for themselves"

Karen Jarrett

"I've had enough. I cycle when travelling all over the world without a helmet. These laws have failed and are destroying cycling. We need cycling for Australia's obesity epidemic and to ease traffic congestion. Building safe cycling into roads costs much less than building roads for more and more cars. Every time we widen a road more cars just fill this new space. Australia used to cycle."

My grandfather's generation would cycle around town to run errands. We are mired in anti-cycling laws and culture. Let's bring cycling back in out of the cold. Our urban environments will reap the rewards."

Luke Mancell

"Do gooders instigated the change."

Peter Vivian

"Too many laws in SA already. This is one that must be abolished."

Steve prisco

"If most of the world can get by why are Australian forced to wear them. Are our heads softer than the global average?"

Justin Smirk

"Freeeeeeestyle"

Jose Vulcao

"I like more respect is shown for cyclists in genaral, also without a helmet."

Arjen Dekker

"Look how many people cycle in Japan and Amsterdam. I lived in Japan for 6 years, and miss being able to simply jump on the bike with a basket on front and ride 5 minutes to the shops."

Glen McAlevey

"Another case of Big Brother making a case out of nothing"

Gary Vial

"I rode around my island state of Tasmania aged 17 - a three week trip. Dodged log trucks and tourists caravans and survived to tell the tale. Tasmania's population has not gown significantly since then - many,many more cyclists though. Having to risk a \$50 fine is extreme."

Ian Bartle

"when I race or ride hard I wear a helmet - it makes good sense. But when goofing around I want to have the choice - its as simple as that"
chris hodge

"Local commuting should not require a helmet, it just puts people off local comuting"
Eugene Murnane

"I believe that some form of mandatory helmet law may be useful for children, driving on roads shared with cars as they a) cannot properly decide the risk and b) are greater victims of peer pressure. However above the age of 18 mandatory helmets are a very significant restriction that keep a lot of people of bikes. It should be repealed and soon."
Tony Camilleri

"Getting more people on bikes and off their behinds is a win. Helmets should be a choice not a law."
Lucas Arlidge

"Being an Australian that lives in the Netherlands I am left dreaming of what could happen in Australia if the helmet laws were reformed!"
Jason Grady

"Really annoying to wear helmets puts people off riding bikes"
Jarred hill

"naked head is not a crime"
Raymond Elliot

"My wife was fined \$68 for not wearing a helmet!! We can ride anywhere in the world without helmets.It's a stupid law and the bicycle helmets that are out there are a joke offering no real protection.Get rid of this law and give us a choice."
David Goodall

"I lived 40 years in The Netherlands and are born on a bicycle, never worn a helmet. Since 10 years in Australia and using my bicycle to commute to work I

am used to helmet hair... Wish I could have my hair flowing in the wind again...
The lycra clad gangs on road bikes might need to wear a helmet for safety, but
normal cyclist should be free to chose to do so or not."

wilma

"It's impacted my riding significantly. I'm not a child. Maybe make it mandatory for
under-12s but for god's sake let the rest of us make up our own minds - that's
what we have them for: making decisions, even if they're not the ones authorities
might think are best."

Martyn Griffiths

"The public health implications of bicycle riding deterrence from helmet laws
outweighs the numerically small benefit of adult helmets. Helmets should not be
compulsory for short journeys, on bike paths or for adults."

Mike Kenny

"Live and ride in Fremantle, Western Australia. After living in Copenhagen, I have
brought this wonderful way of life back with me to WA. Don't ride with a helmet
(luckily the infrastructure here is pretty good), and proud of it!"

Sean Vincent

"I support the removal of ridiculous helmet laws in Australia."

Danny Weatherley

"Mobility scooter riders don't wear helmets, skateboard riders don't wear helmets,
roller bladers don't wear helmets, motorists don't wear helmets (although racing
car drivers do) Pedestrians don't wear helmets, and how often are there
accidents between pedestrians and motorists?"

Gabriele Duffy

"i want the choice please to wear or not wear a helmet when i ride a bike thanks"

tanya b lyons

"After coming back fro Copenhagen I can not go back to driving my car- riding a
bike is so healthy, enhances well being,antidepressant and environment friendly!
Aggressive behaviour on the roads towards bicycle riders which includes
pedestrians on shared paths is due to the small amount of bicycle riders in

Melbourne. Bicycle has to become a means of transportation not a sport! no helmets for adults, improve paths for bikes, do not let us share with cars. Reinforce and encourage it on government level like in Denmark. They are the happiest nation by statistic. <http://www.investindk.com/Why-Denmark/A-great-place-to-live>"

Victoria

"LET THOSE WHO RIDE DECIDE"

cooney

"Helmets haven't made cycling safer and I see them as unnecessary. Wear one if you want just stop me having to."

Robert Slape

"Riding is all about freedom for me."

Salavat Akhmediev

"I agree that helmets shouldn't be compulsory - wear them if you feel inclined or at risk."

Steve Papas

"can a bike helmet be attached to bike while riding ? Does this qualify as riding with a helmet ? Our town has been getting hammered by highway patrol harassing kids, adults for not wearing helmets. Very few people here wear helmets btw"

Clive wilson

"Let's start a cycling religion where it's against our teachings to wear a helmet. Beat them at their own stupid game."

Doug Crosbie

"Helmet law has failed --- to get people onto bikes you have to make it as easy as possible, not establish pointless barriers. Mandatory helmets are not even seriously considered elsewhere in the world. Australia is out on a limb."

Michael Mounteney

"The only person that can be hurt by a person choosing not to wear a helmet is themselves. (The usage of the pronoun in this manner is intended)"

Harry Aronsten

"Bloody silly law that most of the rest of the world manages fine without. It's also so widely ignored as to be meaningless."

Hugh Brown

"Repealing the mandatory helmet law and improving bicycle infrastructure (copy the Netherland's example in all aspects) will lead to higher per capita cycling rates. It will improve Australia's 'Gross National Health'! We need transport systems that can improve the well-being of all citizens."

Nicholas Seefried

"Plenty of lycra-clad warriors, but not so many middle aged ladies riding bikes to the shops these days. I very much miss the opportunity to ride a bike for casual pleasure. Give me back my grace, dignity, convenience and freedom please!"

L. Hill

"There is no way to weigh or measure the fatality of delight in daily life through the removal of the simple and pleasurable access to an occasion to ride a bicycle. With my briefcase in the basket And the sun on my face"

Peter Edwards

"Helmets are extremely inconvenient and prevent me from riding therefore I reluctantly drive which is more dangerous, polluting and cause congestion."

bb

"I hope people still keep wearing helmets but they shouldn't be forced to."

Ian Radbone

"Yes! Congratulations for doing something about this! How do I donate to your worthy cause? Good luck!"

Lesley smith

"There should be choice. There is only risk to oneself."

Russell green

"A helmet does little to protect u in most cases, as they are too flimsy and never fit correctly. If more money was invested in better bike lanes & public transport then there would be less cars on the road. Also if everyone, including cyclists were better educated then there would less accidents anyway."

LyndallKay

"I occasionally cycle to work in the tropics. I cycle along cycle paths with grass at either side. In summer it's extrememly hot and humid and wearing a helmet makes me hotter and sometimes feel faint! I prefer not to wear a helmet and feel the breeze in my hair. I feel perfectly safe - I am going slowly with no traffic. If I don't wear a helmet I get comments from people (sometimes positive but mainly negative). This is putting me off cycling. If cycling on the roads in heavy traffic, I may choose to wear a helmet, but in the heat, I feel it is more unsafe to wear one! I'm from the UK where I cycled everywhere and loved to be able to just hop on my bike and not have to worry about having to carry a helmet round with me all day."

Cathy Liptrot

"Look at the numbers!"

Thomas A Lawson

"I would cycle if I didn't have to wear a stupid helmet."

Brian Young

"This is a stupid law put in place by the Nanny State."

John Dunn

"Just give us the choice.Let those who ride decide."

Victor J Brown

"Please get rid of the helmet."

Nola Macaulay

"I can decide for myself when it's wise to wear a helmet - I don't need one to go

for the morning paper."
dave fowden

"good luck in your quest. just another nanny state directive."
Sam Watson

"This is long overdue"
Mark Imisides

"I stopped riding bikes when the helmet law was passed. How many kids will be obese today for exactly the same reason? Riding a bike without a helmet was one of the greatest freedoms of my childhood."
Dana Alfred

"The most rediculour law ever - if we were serious about saving lives we would ban alcohol immediatly. This law ahs certainly discouraged me from bicycle riding and the enjoyment and excercise I used to get from it"
Paul Traub

"just got \$50 ticket for riding my bike to the store without a helmet. We need change. Cop was such a dick"
Kurtis Wauchope

"Riders should be allowed to decide whether to wear a helmet which in really serious accidents will not provide enough protection anyway. Time to remove this useless archaic law"
EngWah LEE

" I an 67 as a boy i rode every day on a bike and enjoyed every minute i agree with your comments that on balance its better to have more riders enjoying life than a few with helmets accidents do happen its a part of Life"
Graham Buchan

"I want to see Melbourne fulfil it's potential as a cycling city, and promote and support bicycles through safe infrastructure."
Samuel Kilner

"Should not be compulsory"

Rey

"my mum taught me how to ride a bike without a helmet, i would like to continue ridding without one, thanks"

michael van aar

"Less creating legislation without asking the people it effects please. This behaviour is unconstitutional and ignores the will of the people, the purpose of carrying out of such being your entire job. I don't need a cotton wool wrapping and I am offended by people in power that do. cheers, dave."

Dave McLoughlin

"A scrapping of this legislation should see more people on bikes. I live in the NT where more people regularly cycle. This is in spite of the extreme weather. More cycleways would be fantastic too."

Antony Stride

"Less nanny state please!!"

John Stokes

"Freedom of choice!"

Owen ONeill

"Repeal the law as I believe in (i) individual choice (ii) encouraging greater cycling participation (iii) making bike share schemes effective (iv) health benefits from greater participation outweigh those from head injuries"

Karl Glazebrook

"It would be great to be able to ride to the shops along the bike way without a helmet."

margaret gardner

"Additional reasons: 1. Woman hate helmets because it messes up their hair. Its

a big turn off for teenage girls especially, in turn leading to less exercise and thus greater health problems. 2. There is no convincing evidence that the net effect of helmets is to reduce risks. It hinders neck mobility and thus reduces road awareness."

Paul Frijters

"We travel regularly and have always been strongly aware of the contrast in bike usage in most countries particularly Europe as opposed to the bureaucratic dictatorship of Australia (where everything has to be regulated). It is amazing to see people in the thousands, children, and families, elderly people riding for miles just to buy an ice cream or sit or play in a park. So healthy and enjoyable, and the thing is accident rates per bicycle are no higher and in most countries and many are even lower than ours"

Nev Kemp

"I used to ride a bike all the time before this idiotic law, but now I don't. I did buy one last year and it sat at my home for six months unused, i got the bike out several times but when it came time to put on the helmet I just couldn't do it. i am now very unfit and 20 kilos heavier. this law is detrimental to our health, discriminatory, and I believe the fine is nothing less than extortion."

colin phillips

"Sometimes you dont need helmet when there is no apparent danger."

Rick Fontelera

"Great work."

Marque Shedden

"Should be up to the individual"

Ian Taylor

"We need some statistics to show how many people have been hurt because they were not wearing a bicycle helmet."

michael whitty

"repeal helmet law"

ken vagg

"If the issue is hospitalisation costs and death, then ban smoking and alcohol? To protect them from head injuries why don't pedestrians and motorists have to wear helmets. Patrick from Offspring would still be alive today if he was wearing a helmet as a pedestrian. Mandatory helmet laws are a deterrent to some people to cycle and get healthy as well as help the environment. If mandatory helmet laws are such a great idea and make such a difference, why hasn't the rest of the world introduced them? Cycling is only dangerous if you are reckless. Wear a helmet if YOU prefer, but LET ME CHOOSE whether I wear one or not."

Liz Hone

"I've now quite riding my bike because I can't afford the ridiculously high cost of helmet fines. I have tried riding with a helmet and find it extremely uncomfortable and distracting and therefore find it more dangerous wearing a helmet when riding as my concentration is focused on the discomfort of the helmet and not on my riding."

Tim Bullas

"Nanny State. Give people the choice."

Anton Ferreira

"helmet law is the utmost example of nanny state rules. up with freedom of choice!"

Ben Shaw

"I love riding in Germany without having to have a helmet on, if I choose."

Wayne Neilson

"I have not ridden my bike since helmet laws were introduced. It still sits rusting in my shed"

jon

"Yay! Cheers for leaving the little card advising me if your website in my bike basket today :)"

Jane Rashleigh

"Should and needs to be repeled we dont wear helmets in cars n in eurrope
heaps of people ride without helments."

Raelene Grumley

"I've fallen off a few times and didnt need the helmet, A baseball cap will do for
me..."

Charles Doyle

"Many Police still believe the governments study's on cycle helmet law
effectiveness. Lets target the police commissioners office with the facts."

Alex Reid

"Keep laws for children to wear helmets at all times, but give adults the option"
s&e wright

"I support the abolition of the compulsory bike helmet laws. Personal freedom
not nanny states!"

Terry Crain

"If we need the law to protect us from ourselves, then what does that say about
ourselves? The helmet law is an insult to our civil liberty."

James

"There is substantial evidence to show that mandatory helmet laws are
ineffective and counterproductive. We need to repeal them and get more people
cycling!"

Phoenix Blackdove

"I will ride my bike when I like and will never wear a helmet regardless of the law.
It gets bloody hot where I live in summer and consider that heat stroke is more of
a danger to my health than not wearing a helmet. I survived my insane teenage
years riding a bmx back before these poxy laws came in, I think as a mature 42yr
old I can manage the risks of bike riding without the need of a police state
dictating helmet use!"

Warren Chitty

"How ridiculous bringing in laws as if I'm a child of the government."

Robert lea

"Helmet should be optional. They reduce the pleasure of riding a bike and reduce your sense of hearing and sight. I feel less safe wearing a helmet. Overseas travel shows many countries do not have mandatory helmets, eg a recent trip to the UK. They have rental bikes which get more use than ones here in Melbourne where you need a helmet. Bike rental is a good idea but having to fork out for a helmet reduces the patronage."

Ashley Mogensen

"Australia's road laws actually discriminate AGAINST cyclists. On my 15km daily commute, I choose to disobey the rules (wrong way up one-way streets, ride on footpath, etc) about 5 times in each direction because it's safer than compliance!"

Nat

"Riding without a helmet provokes safer driving responses because drivers view you as being more 'unsafe' or fragile, and give you a wider berth."

Robert Davy

"Bicycle helmets might make sense for racers but are merely an inconvenience for commuters and casual users."

Les Bennett

"Encourage exercise and reduce car use"

Will

"I cant stand this stupid law. Helmets irritate - lessen your freedom of movement and as such cause add danger to cycling"

Toby Ackland

"I've been putting off buying a cycle, because, quite frankly, I don't like wearing a helmet - I'd rather drive my car and burn fossil fuels than wear a helmet! Damn NSW ((Aus) nanny state :("

Willem Vos

"Published on the web shows that bike helmets do NOT reduce accidents. Ref:
'Australia's helmets law disaster'
<http://ipa.org.au/publications/2019/australia%27s-helmet-law-disaster>"
Steve Campbell

"The mandatory helmet law is not based on previous research. It is not supported
by current research and it does not encourage cyclists. Please review this law for
the health of all Australians."
Kellie McMaster

"As with roll bars, delimiters, helmets, lights on during the day whilst driving cars,
it's all safer. But the individual driver has the choice. Cycling with a helmet is
safer, but once again it should be the cyclists choice."
Anthony Shanahan

"that helmet compulsory law is the most stupid law of australia!!! this is not a
country for cycling at all!!!"
quentin

"Pick up and drop off bicycle systems such as in Paris are amazing. They
encourage all to ride more and keep cars off the road. I know that without
helmets such initiatives would be possible to implement here in Sydney with
success. Under current laws where helmets are required, such systems are a
flop as noted in Melbourne."
Adrian Caspar

"I'm convinced. Let's get more people on bikes. People still have the option to
where helmets if they wish (as I will)."
Tim

"Love riding my bike, but helmet really spoils the joy of it; it's just another
inconvenient impediment to an otherwise fun healthy activity"
Mark.Lazarus

"I've lived in London for two years. I wore a helmet for my 10k ride to work
through central London. I didn't wear a helmet when riding in my local area.
Those local rides much more pleasant, and I exercised far greater caution, so I

believe they were very safe."

Ingrid Sjolund

"I will always wear a helmet but I would like it to be my choice not a law we can make sensible decisions for ourselves"

Geoff Dearden

"I'm a firm believer in choice. Most of the time I wear a helmet but sometimes I'd prefer not to (like just dropping down to the shop). It should be my choice."

edward pember

"Riding without an helmet is more relaxing then having some thing hard,hot and uncomfortable on your head."

G.Greaves

"While I lived in the Netherlands I cycled just over 2000km per year - without a helmet. Since I moved back to Australia 5 years ago I've covered less than 250km total. Having to faff around with a helmet in order to ride a bicycle is asinine. I do wear a helmet for my daily commute on my motorcycle - I appreciate the value of a full-face helmet in that application. I also realise the futility of wearing a poorly attached piece of polystyrene on my head whilst riding a bicycle. If laws impinging on an individuals right to choose how they want to live their life are deemed acceptable; and the justification for this is to save lives, why not legislate something more effective and ban smoking for instance?"

Theo Misdrom

"More incidences of melanomas. I prefer to ride with a wide brim hat in the sun"

John Barrett

"I would really love this law to be repealed. I would like the choice to wear a helmet or not. It's my head after all."

diana Baldry

"Been riding push bikes for 64 years. I rode to school as kid, did silly things as a teen and continue to ride now on a single speed bone crusher 29er mountain bike, which is used as a fitness aid in all terrains. Now over 70 years old and NEVER once in 64 years of biking have I even come close to injuring my head,

yet current do-gooder legislation obliges me to wear a plastic pot on my head or risk being bullied and persecuted by our brave men and other gender police people for daring to account for my own safety. The regulation requiring compulsory head protection for cyclists is just plain nonsense."

Mike

"I've fallen off twice in the last 30 years. Both times the cause was the helmet itching and distracting me from riding. Sure, if you're racing or downhill, wear a helmet, but for casual riding they're too dangerous."

Will Raymont

"**** helmets!"
Youp

"Count me in!"
Taryn Holgate

"A past campaigner from 1991-97 Cyclists Action Group W.A. Pp. My sister says helmets are good. if she knocks a rider over they are less likely to be killed, so she does not have to take so much care..!"

Peter Somers

"\$180 later, and two smug, immature police officers who drove illegally up a one way street to book me. I simply forgot to put my helmet on (it was actually in my backpack). But they didn't believe me. Of course they both told me how keen cyclists they were and how they have never ever ridden without a helmet. Serve and protect. No. Enforce the most stupid of laws and fine the maximum. Make criminals out of law abiding, fitness minded, community minded people. Take the money I planned to invest in my bike for new forks and wheels/tyres/brakes and give it instead to St Kilda Police. They have nothing better to do in the whole of St Kilda?"

Ben O'Connor

"Recently spent time in Japan. No helmet required there! Our law is crazy."
Michael Kozikowski

"the lives lost through obesity is far greater than lives lost through bike accidents.

i think we need to encourage people back to exercise, not put them off. not to mention the impact on the enviroment. end this silly law and give us back our right to decide for ourselves"

kerry gledhill

"Should only wear them when magpies attack in nesting season!"

les roberts

"I know many women who stopped their healthy cycling because the helmet laws are restrictive. Cycle helmets do nothing to make adult riders safer. Helmets are only beneficial in small children who are at risk for 'egg-shell' skull fractures. I'm sick of having to cart a helmet around town with me. Let me choose."

Lynette Miles

"Cycling is not a crime!"

Gordon Kanki Knight

"Maybe it should be mandatory for children and freedom of choice for adults. Do the stats show a reduction in head injuries of either adults or children since the introduction of the law."

Alan

"Helmets reduce injury, but far less than the reduction they cause in casual cycling. Health and safety benefits of increased cycling would be far greater."

Peter Robinson

"We don't need helmets, we need safer bike infrastructure. I lived in Utrecht, Holland for 6 months, and the bike culture there was amazing. No one wore helmets."

Arnina

"Keep up the good work. I remember my youth riding free without my helmet."

Jason Morton

"Hope this law is abolished."

Kai Dyson

"get rid of helmet laws now so i can ride my bike"

Andrew

"Helmet laws are typical of Australian Nanny thinking. Wearing a helmet should be the choice of the rider, not some bureaucratic 'pooh-Ba' who may, or may not, even ride a bike."

Bob Hollis

"As it is discouraging cycling.."

Margareta Holmdahl

"Stop autocrats taking my free choices away"

Philip Probets

"Governments in Australia should provide separate cycle paths for the cyclist. They don't. Instead they force cyclists by law to wear a helmet and to them the problem is fixed. I left Holland for Australia when I was 25 so I know all about cycling and I love cycling. I would do so in Australia if I wasn't forced by a STUPID Australian law to wear a helmet. Many feel the same about it. It would be so good for people's health to cycle instead of using a car, especially older people and for the national health bill. Repeal the STUPID helmet law!"

Han Barkmeyer

"It would be nice to have a choice, especially for adults."

Michael Tsimouris

"I am an adult and should be entitled to make my own decisions. I'd rather the breeze in my hair than a politician's concern for my welfare."

David Woods

"This is a stupid law. Yes you need helmet on Tour de France Alpine descents. You don't need helmets for leisurely cycling on bike paths. Please get some sense into this."

Graeme Page

"Back in the 70's, kids rode to school every day without a helmet. Why wasn't it immediately recognized way back then as being so dangerous?"

Leo Freeman

"i like to ride on bike tracks and not the roads.I don't believe that helmets are required for off road riding."

karenne

"Yes Please, although Australia needs a lot of reform to encourage safer bicycle riding so that we are not such a big producer of carbon emissions. Helmets do not make riding bikes safer hemet laws just discourage riding and create police revenue, instead safer roads and bike paths are needed."

malia

"No country that has a successful bike program has compulsory helmet laws"

Matt Goodman

"Helmets are optional in Europe, where the traffic density is far greater that here in Adelaide. Why are Australians treated like morons by legislators? And why have so many people been brainwashed into parroting that 'wearing a helmet is safe'? I find it impairs my hearing, my vision, and most importantly, my pleasure while riding."

Darlene Harrison

"let people make their own choices!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

matt blackwell

"I hope to complete a second analysis of NSW RTA records on deaths and injuries among cyclists. The first one, completed some years ago, showed no significant difference when one accounted for reduction in participation."

Jim Lemon

"Hello! near all my friends stopped riding, when compulsory helmet laws were brought in!! we must have choice as adults at least, Australia is over controlled these days by clueless bureaucrats CHEERS!!"

Ryan

"Australians should follow the rest of the world and be given the choice as to whether they want to wear a helmet or not."

Daniel Smith

"while I will always wear a skidlid, I support moves to make it a personal choice and not compulsory...best way to keep bike riders safe is with safe infrastructure (separated lanes) and lower speeds"

sue myall

"There is only one reason for this over protective law and that is to save some money for the Government on hospitals."

Rob Lapaer

"I believe that current bicycle helmet laws are an impediment to the take up of bikes within small communities. Smaller communities could often have motor car journey replaced by bicycle journeys. However, current helmets are hot, uncomfortable and do not protect the rider from environmental elements. This is over and above the need to obey current laws or face the consequences. I think the optional use of helmets for adults in urban zones would remove a large impediment to bicycle use in Australia."

Dougal

"Adults should have the choice as to wearing a helmet or not especially if it is low risk riding"

Bianca hart

"There is no evidence to show recreational cycling is safer wearing a foam helmet. Make it a personal choice."

Stu Rawlinson

"Let's help facilitate more people cycling, less people driving. Europe and Asia have many more people cycling per capita and this equates to both less congestion and better health outcomes. The health benefits of cycling far outweigh the risks of cycling without a helmet. It has been 20 years Aus/NZ have had these laws and no other countries have adopted them in this time. It is time to remove the barriers to cycling."

Steve Pan

"I'm an Adult, let me choose. I can smoke cigarettes, eat fast food, but cant ride to the beach without a helmet? Idiocy. Down with the nanny state! Simon"

Simon Lewis

"When the helmet laws were introduced, I stopped riding my bike. I now ride again, but would do so a lot more if there was no helmet law."

V Corney

" I spend two months every year riding in Europe without having to wear a helmet and really enjoy the freedom and yes, I still wear one for longer tours but it's my choice."

Don Hatcher

"keep up the good work :)"

Will matthews

"Tell the loony **** pollies to stick there stupid insane money making law right up there **** ."

David Sorell

"I moved to Australia from a country with a bike culture."

Markus Hlusiak

"what we demand is the ability to chose in other words freedom....."

Brian Bell

"I have just been fined \$300.70 cents for riding without my helmet on. I have elected to go to gaol as a matter of principle and to draw attention to the ridiculous helmet laws."

jim morris

"This law is absurd, I do not ride a bike because of it, it is laughable that the TRG,

pursuit vehicles and the dog squad will be employed to apprehend somebody without a cycle helmet, but you can get an exemption to ride a motorcycle without one (which I agree with) you only have to look at Holland and Europe to see how absurd and indefensible this ridiculous law is. It is madness that a woman can smoke 40 ciggies a day for 9 months yet if she puts child in a buggy behind a bike to take him to the lung clinic without a helmet suddenly she is ignoring his health.....rant over thanks for listening"

DG

"I've seen two patrol cars (four officers) involved in ticketing one person with no helmet."

craig ballington

"There is a place for bicycle helmets - and that is in cycle competition. For normal riding/commuting they are not necessary, as exemplified by the countries where enormous numbers of people ride bicycles on a daily basis. we need more people using bicycles, and compulsory helmets are a real discouragement for many to take up cycling."

Graeme Gullick

"australia is a nanny nation"

chris smith

"I gave up riding pushies for many years because of these stupid laws. Then I woke up to myself and decided just to ignore them. Encouraging to see many others thinking the same way."

Ron Jacobs

"I've been knocked off my bike twice by people opening car doors and it was my hands that hit the road not my head. Thank God for gloves!"

Miles Bandson

"you're a silly bugger if you crash a bike with no helmet on. but to have it illegal is even sillier"

dan haley

"I lived in Turkey and Los Angeles, California, and I was an active bicyclist. I

stopped bicycling Seattle due to harsh helmet laws. Now, I am currently living in the source of mandatory helmet laws in Melbourne, Australia and I am not enjoying it."

Burak Uslu

"We need to separate the country leisure/racing accident stats from those in the suburbs where we most want to encourage cycling in Aust. The lycra set should probably wear helmets, but the rest of us who are simply going somewhere, give us a break..."

Robyn Handreck

"A failed measure."

Chris Little

"The policy of the City of Sydney Council is to not require helmets on separated bikeways. I also understand that the Northern Territory does not mandate helmet use."

john mcinerney

"Make cycling cool again!"

Andrew Wade

"I count myself a law-abiding citizen but when it come to cycle helmets I refuse flatly to be told what I shall do with my head by bureaucrats! I'm not a child!!! I'd rather stop cycling and what is more dangerous to me (after fifty years with no incidents)? Stop getting essential exercise or not wearing a mostly redundant nanny helmet?"

Elardus Mare

"It's well overdue for 'Nanny' to back off, and recognise that the wearing of a helmet or not should be a basic freedom of choice in respect of riding pushbikes, especially for casual and short-run riders. This should never have been allowed to happen here in the first place."

Steve Gibson

"This is so important! Bicycle helmets should be optional, not mandatory! Maybe we should bring it in as a 'under the age of 18's must wear helmets' or something

similar. Either way, the mandatory helmet law is detrimental and ludicrous!"
Nathaniel Greenacre

"Let people have the freedom of choice if they want to wear a helmet or not. Don't fine them for not wearing a helmet."
Eileen Kahnsdorf

"Brain injury is caused by the brain hitting the inside of the skull..Bicycle helmets have no protection ..helmet laws were introduced by a bankrupt labour (cain, kerner, bracks)government.for revenue raising...(The fines for not wearing one)...This outdated law should be repealed and let helmets be voluntary"
Jeff

"Fully support the repeal of these laws."
Suleman Kesh

"DOH,, Born in holland and a big fan of the Hat free riding. So much nicer AND no False security"
Jan Eveleens

"it should always be a matter of choice whether to wear a helmet or not. At least with riding a bicycle"
Klaus Schneider

"I don't believe it's the a free country's, government's place to infringe on an individual's rights, even in such a small but personal way. It's a big deal, philosophically. i.e., it is inherently anti-American."
Jean-Pierre Henderson

"Let the rider decide whether or not to wear a helmet. That should not be a matter for government intervention."
Clive Sayers

"Amongst heavy, fast motor traffic wearing a MOTORCYCLE helmet may be beneficial if a pushbike rider is hit by a car and / or pinged into a solid object. I've been riding for well over fifty years and NONE of my spills have justified the

wearing of a bicycle helmet. I've also owned and ridden (including racing) large sports and touring road motorcycles all my adult life and thus have more than a fleeting understanding of the roads. Riders over say 25 years, and particularly mature-aged riders should have discretionary status. Being told by a young text-book police-person that I am unsafe is laughable."

Brouss Chambers

"Canberra has an extensive network of off-road bike paths. These are exceptionally safe. It used to be a joy to ride on them - much of that joy is gone with mandatory helmet-wearing. Obviously I would choose to use a helmet on busy roads. I never use busy roads but am forced to use a helmet on quiet, safe separated bike paths. Helmet wearing should be a choice. Cycling is not an extreme sport. Helmets and lycra have their place but so do no helmets and normal clothing. The extreme sport look turns people off cycling, making it look very very dangerous."

Penelope Hanley

"The argument in support of MHL's from brain surgeons is weak when compared to the argument against MHL's from heart surgeons."

Kevin

"It should be a personal choice not mandatory."

Bob Knott

"Choice, not compulsion"

Gareth Lock

" Japan has about 63,000,000 cyclists and as far as I am aware no helmet laws. Maybe they are just harder headed than us, or just not members of a NANNY State."

Edward

"Would use a cycle much more often if it weren't for the helmet law. For sure."

Harry Cole

" It's my head, in this so called 'free country' I should have the right to choose. One more nanny state law."

R.Donovan

"Please have a read of 'Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do' by Peter McWilliams and then let me know what you think."

Shayne Anderson

"im glad to see there are people that feel the same way i do about helmets. well done and thank you"

mark

"I Ride a road bike and wear a helmet but when I'm popping out for a casual ride i refuse to wear a helmet and break the law.I go to europe to ride every year and 90% of riders do not wear helmets. Just another example of Australia over governing peoples lives."

bob smith

"Helmets should not be compulsory."

Robert Kaay

"It is ridiculous that you can be pulled up by the cops even for a casual ride, honestly the laws are pathetic. It should only apply to those under 12 or 13."

Jake

"Choice, not compulsion."

Mart Vaidla

"Helmet laws suck! Let those who ride, decide."

Mick Tivey

"Although i would still wear a bicycle helmet even if the silly bicycle helmet law were repealed, there are times when it's totally inconvenient to wear a bicycle helmet. Another point is that many women who 'would' ride a bicycle don't do so

because a helmet messes up their hair; effectively locking them out of a healthy lifestyle activity."

Fabian

"If we did not have to wear helmets, our whole family would be riding again."

Hugh Leidl

"Helmets are too hot. Helmets, even the best-ventilated ones, are dangerously hot. This can cause the rider's head to overheat, causing headaches, blindness from sweat in the eyes, increasing drug-like impairment, homicidal violence and death. And I don't want to die. Workcover NSW warns about these effects, so how can the RTA/RMS etc ignore this?"

Alan West

" too many laws on freestyle cyclists, its time to relax them. Constituon stats we have a right to do as we see fit, not have a law that takes it away."

mobilemotorcycledetailing

"I think giving people the choice is the way forward."

J. Eden

"I totally agree ,Didnt have to wear them when i was a kid"

dale fettke

"I am not a robot, but a Robert. Helmets are hot."

rob allen

"Mostly I ride with a helmet and I recognise that they provide protection and are safer but I believe that everyone should be free to take the risk of riding without one sometimes."

Rob Wilson

"Riding will be more accessible and enjoyable and the risks are low enough. Live life, ride free."

Erle Edwinson

"I get very hot wearing my helmet when riding my recumbent trike .!"
Niall Povey

"Totally agree"
Phil Collins

"Freedom of choice taken from us!"
Paul Warren

"I ride a bike regularly to and from work. I wear a helmet because it's the law, but would much prefer not to wear one for many reasons. I believe helmets for adults are superfluous, and will do nothing to protect me if I get hit by a car (the most likely cause of a bike related injury). The speeds I travel are rarely higher than 15-20 kph, which is not much faster than your average jogger, and joggers don't have to wear helmets. Let's have a win for common sense!"
Alison Swart

"Helmets take the fun out of cycling! At least on bicycle tracks helmets should be optional, not compulsory. Cyclists never have been consulted about this stupid law!"
Stephan Mueller

"Its not rocket science, just give us a chance.Let those who ride decide"
Victor Brown

"Instituted first in Victoria for the benefit of the car makers. The injury rates are a myth. The year prior to introduction in NZ, no cyclist was killed? Helmet laws make cyclists at fault."
Mark G. Rowland

"it should be freedom of choice but sporting events should always insist on helmets"
chris

"It's about time Australia grew up and stopped being the laughing stock of the

world with regard to helmet laws."

Rafal

"I want to be free"

Ewen

"I don't wear one anyway"

Damian

"18yrs and under should be made to wear helmets. The rest of us should be allowed to make our own decision about whether we wear a helmet or not. Freedom of choice now!"

Ross

"We have an epidemic of diabetes, and rapidly increasing rates of obesity. We need to encourage physical activity. Cycling is an activity that is healthy for the individual and the environment. Compulsory helmets are a major disincentive to cycling and therefore a part of the cause of obesity in our community."

Laurie Park

"An outrageous car-centric, anti cyclist law needs to be repealed."

Robin Harrison

"Helmet. Growing up I never wore a helmet, and some government legal wants to make money, so all must support this conditions. Lets remove this law NOW."

Brian Hastings

"These laws have only reduced bicycle injury and mortality by discouraging people from riding altogether. Good one, Australia."

Peter Hughes

"I am a cyclist and wouldnt ride without one and i wouldnt let my kids ride without one either.... but people should have a choice, not be forced."

william

"Its my head I'll treat it how I like."

Andrew Dawson

"check this out ... safety and no helmet hair! <http://www.hovding.com/en/> pass it on!"

nic

"Who am I possibly going to hurt other than myself??. It's up to me if I want to take a risk. Nanny state law!"

Bob Fletcher

" politicians & bureaucrats suck"

tom furtner

" I think it should be up to me if I wear a helmet or not ."

ken herson

"Many more people in Australia would ride bicycles if they did not have to wear helmets, which would be very good for their health."

Uwe Sinn

"Having lived in NL for many years, the Australian bicycle helmet law seems a bit over the top."

Remy Maassen

"more people on bikes! let people wear helmet if they want to!"

mads m. nielsen

"Hello, I believe we should be able to make our own choice if want to wear a helmet or not at our own risk."

gabrielle De Mey

"It's my head, and I don't want to wear a helmet!"

Graeme Workman

"I once had a bad accident on a cycle caused by a loose helmet slipping forward on my head and temporarily obstructing my vision. Can I sue the government for forcing me into these dangerous practises?"

Paul C

"I don't mind wearing a helmet when I need one, but on a bike path I do not!"

Mark Padgett

"Adults should have the right to choose"

Steve Knight

"I am an adult who rides regularly and never wears a helmet. When I was a kid I rode in a quiet suburb that had light traffic. No-one wore helmets back then. I do concede there might be a strong case for kids, who often don't have the experience to sense dangerous situations, to wear helmets in the heavier traffic conditions of today."

chris sim

"The day this law is repealed, the day I start riding a bike again."

Jeff McKinnon

"I agree that an adult should be given the choice to wear or not wear a helmet while riding a bike"

zacharias kounoupis

"Adults should be free to choose whether they wish to wear a helmet or not. We don't need this nanny state to wrap us all in cotton wool."

Melissa Bertone

"It should be an individual choice to wear, or not wear a helmet. I rode my bikes everywhere as a kid in the 70's and as a teen in the 80's, came off many times (as did my mates) and we were perfectly fine. Personally, wearing a helmet limits my hearing and makes it uncomfortable to wear my spectacles and I have tried many different helmets."

Stephen Jamieson

"People should be given the freedom to choose whether or not to wear a helmet. Mandatory helmet laws do nothing for cycling safety and actually do the opposite and they contribute to a decline in biking."

G Chan

"Having to wear a helmet is one of the main reasons I do not ride my bike more. Apart from the hair-management issue, you have to carry the thing with you at your destination because can't lock a helmet like you can your bike. This is a major disincentive to cycling."

Anne Warburton

"- Helmets are for sports cyclists riding fast and at risk of crashes. - Urban cyclists simply getting around cities need safe, direct routes and all barriers and inconveniences removed (MHL being one)."

Adrian Lobo

"Repealing helmet laws would increase cycling by at least a few percent. The overall gain in cardiovascular health and decrease in obesity would be massive. As would the reduction in traffic. This would more than compensate for the so called increase in head injuries in cyclist (if you believe the data)."

Don Ramjan

"Striking a blow for liberty"

carl barry

"Every cyclist knows when it is appropriate to wear a helmet and when it isn't."

Mark Brown

"I have ridden a bike in many European cities, with and without a helmet. The choice should be made by the individual, not the government. Perhaps an argument can be made for children to be protected, but otherwise, let's not live in a discouraging nanny state."

Adam Quennell

"It is OUR choice to choose."

Jim Gundry

"Helmets should be optional. I will still choose to wear one, but it shouldn't attract a fine if you choose not to wear one. Give me the choice!"

Chris Jones

"Helmets should not be required for pushbikes."

Andrew Lim

"Let people make up their own mind on wearing a helmet. It's so stupid that people choose to drive to the local supermarket or run an errand because they don't want to wear a helmet. If helmet laws are changed, we will see less cars on the roads, and more people on bikes being active and healthy."

Tommy Nankervis

"I am originally from Holland. Never believed in the added safety of helmets. For what its worth, motorists in Australia should see a cyclist for what it is, a vulnerable road user. The only way to increase safety for cyclists in Australia is to have many, many more of them using the roads. The normality of seeing cyclists on everyday trips will create the awareness and adjustment to driving skills to give cyclists the room they need to secure safe participation in everyday traffic. On yer bike everybody!"

pascaledewit

"agree with wearing helmets but should not be compulsory, it only discourages people to ride and encourages people to break the law"

ian waite

"Lycra = helmet Optional for the rest of those who choose to casually ride"

Alex Ralec

"I live in the Hunter Valley, helmets when riding on roads are a comforting item to have. Motorists not always happy with our presence. However, there are times when cycling without a helmet would be lovely, specially on all the pathways that are now being built! Lived 12 months in Sweden - what freedom! Helmets compulsory till age 16 perhaps."

Katrina Kay

"I own and ride three bikes almost daily. Of course I wear my helmet when I'm riding my full aero carbon race bike and when I'm drifting my two fixed gear track bikes, but I should have the choice to not wear a helmet when I cruise 200m down to the shops without getting hassled by police."

Joel

"Helmets okay for racing and long distance rides on fast roads. Not needed in City and villages."

Geoff West

"Helmet laws only serve to perpetuate the sentiment that cyclist are 'different' and hence OK to direct your anger at when something doesn't go your way. This increases ill will towards cyclists and has the net effect of making things worse. Add to this the fact forcing helmets on people actively discourages them from social rides at low speeds on bikeways (in particular women), and you've got yourself a recipe for damaging the cycling image & culture."

James Riesz

"Forgot helmet yesterday and journey took 5 minutes less, and added 5 minutes pleasure. Safety is a bicyclists responsibility, which I have learned and take."

david atkinson

"Bring it on! I was back in the UK recently and it was so wonderful to simply cycle without feeling I was doing something wrong or dangerous."

chris Kirtley

"This change must be accompanied by harsher penalties for motorists who seek to intimidate cyclists."

John Drummond

"Nothing discourage me more from riding a bike than wearing a helmet. If you are an adult you should be able to make the decision. When the law was first introduced someone made a lot of money and keep making it."

Tadd

"I use a helmet all the time but it would be good if I could just jump on a city cycle

without one."

brian mcmillan

"Give us the right to ride around our suburb urban streets without the head gear. Increase people's love of riding. Don't reduce it."

Dana Middleton

"We want cycling to look as appealing as possible to get a greater percentage of our nation into a greener healthier lifestyle. The helmet laws are doing the opposite and deterring even individuals who are already on the bicycle wagon! It should be up to the individual to decide if they feel safer with a helmet, are riding at high speeds or on busy roads where they're are risk without one."

Laura Lai

"I took up riding when I was about ten and helmets were not a legal requirement. I have benefited immensely from the pleasure and exercise of riding a bike ever since. I'd rather not be a law-breaker but my bike is a great form of transport and there's a bike path all the way to work. I guess repealing this law would make me a more law-abiding citizen so yes I'm all for it!"

Joy Gallary

"Helmets were introduced to discourage people from riding bicycles not to improve safety. Repeal helmet laws, provide safe cycling infrastructure, lecture the motoring population on appropriate etiquette, introduce vulnerable road user legislation and/or reintroduce legislation that gives pedestrians the right of way all time everywhere. Let people know that car use is a privilege not a right or entitlement."

Gilbert Grace

"If I didn't have to wear a helmet, I think I might ride a bike..."

D Allan

"I ride a motorcycle, always with a helmet. I drive a car always with a seatbelt. But I want a choice about simply going for a ride on my pushy. I'm not riding at any great speed. I appreciate there still are dangers but I'm adult enough to make my own decisions about wearing a helmet."

Barclay Don

"freedom of choice"
Leon Heynders

"The helmet laws are one reason kids particularly are less active."
Peter Gahan

"I love the feeling of wind in my hairs."
Nick Davis

"Mandatory helmet laws cost real lives"
Keith Baldry

"Helmets in Queensland summer heat causes sweat to run into your eyes being far more dangerous than riding without a helmet..."
Samuel Mackie

"Helmets yes, compulsion no. I nearly always wear my helmet. Sometimes I can't find it, sometimes it would spoil my mohawk, I'm often forced to take the ute on these occasions."
Brad Bradshaw

"under democracy,those who ride decide,under fascism, laws are passed down by tyrants - where is australia now? in particular melbourne victoria, where global helmet laws began = fascist headquaters"
jamie moore

"Absolutely agree - Oz & NZ are the 2 countries with mandatory cycle helmet laws & they are far from the safest places to cycle. More cyclists lead to better vehicle response & acknowledgement, and a more healthy population. Non-cyclists and over enthusiastic health advocates need to think outside the square. I am an avid cyclist who rides at least 5 times a week.."
Peter

"I RODE A BIKE FROM THE AGE OF 6 TILL THE AGE OF 18 THEN TRANSFERRED TO A MOTORBIKE ALSO WITHOUT AN HELMET IM STILL

HERE"

mike braycotton

"i'm not a robot"

kevin

"I believe kids up to the age of 16 should wear a helmet. After that it should be your choice. I never wear a helmet as I am not riding in the tour de france. Just going for a pleasant ride with my family!!!"

Brendan O'Leary

"Helmet laws remove our own right to judge danger for ourselves. If I want to ride the footpath, helmet free, it's my choice, as are the ramifications of said choice. As is my same decision, riding down the great ocean road with a helmet. I have not had an accident involving any head damage since my teens and I am almost 30. And I've stacked my bike a lot. Whilst being fined for not wearing a helmet, I was also told that anyone above 12 years old had to ride on road. On a two lane road. With no shoulder. In peak hour. Because the cars backing out of driveways were a danger to me... Silly right? I get full bottles of soft drink and obscenities thrown at me on the road, and more obscenities (and bottles) on the footpath. I even had a grandmother push her granddaughter in front of me, in spite of my efforts to move aside and allow room to pass. Then she abused me for almost hitting her grandchild. Bike riders, are being victimised for the sake of making safety law, and it hurts nobody but bike riders. We are a minority and it makes us easy targets. We are not the bad guys. We are healthy, energetic people that just want a fair go, and fining riders for not wearing a pointless piece of foam on their heads is only discouraging cycling in a country that has a fledgling obesity epidemic. Accidents happen. Life is not fair or just. And these laws are merely a revenue raising measure. If you think that foam will protect your brain from damage when you get hit by a drunk driver going 60+kmph, wear one. And I'll keep carrying a four leaf clover. Good luck!"

Matthew Heyne <comment></comment>

"I own a velomobile and I use it for every day transport. I don't see the need for me to wear a helmet, or at least I would like the choice."

paul aitken

"Wearing helmets should be an option, not compulsory."

Peter Lloyd

"I ride often, especially when training for ironman. I will probably still wear my helmet on rides I feel are more dangerous but I would like to have the option of riding without a helmet when I deem it appropriate."

Brian Bennett

"Let's get rid of this silly law pronto."

Phil Twiss

"I'm a 70's baby and we grew up not wearing helmets... shouldn't have to now either given the right circumstances!"

Darren

"The benefits of a active healthy lifestyle and 'freedom of choice' Far outweigh the odd head injury...Repel the NANNY helmet laws"

Hamish Anderson

"No helmets in the netherlands is good enough for me"

John van

"drop nanny state regulations now"

Geoff Smith

"Bicycling should be encouraged and supported in any way possible including choice as to wearing a helmet. Spend more effort in educating and encouraging motorists to respect cyclists and the benefit they bring to the community as a whole."

Trevor Ockenden

"The research I've looked at indicates that the helmet's we're forced to wear offer little protection, and may statistically increase the number of accidents cyclists have. And they significantly discourage people from riding. I vote for choice!"

Adrian Try

"helmet law should NOT be compulsory. Typical nanny state mentality and revenue raising and discouragement of cycling. Repeal the law."

aldo

"Please remove this unnecessary law ASAP."

Tim Walmsley

"As someone who has lived in Europe for the best part of a decade, I find this law to be profoundly ridiculous. European cultures have incorporated bicycles into their road rules and societies to become a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Strapping an uncomfortable block onto your head for protection against something so unlikely to happen (for an experienced rider) is completely stupid. Perhaps pedestrians should wear pillow suits?"

Martin Bannard

"I ride around the inner city of Sydney. I often trundle a short distance to the shops and back. I am riding at low speed and feel that wearing a helmet should be a personal choice."

S Goddard

"less helmets = more bikes = more awareness = less accidents."

Sam Trewartha

"look @ Europe or go to any road junction in Berlin"

john cross

"Great freedom for freestyle riding"

Anthony Bellamy

"Give us choice. Stop the nanny state. My health has deteriorated severely since

I stopped cycling because I hate wearing a helmet. Ungainly, uncomfortable and unnecessary. Allow people to choose for themselves as they do in most places of the world. i.e. China and India !!!"

Stephen Little

"Rode bikes all my life until the helmets were introduced .. be happy to take it up again if the law is repealed!"

John H

"Get rid of the lids!"

Andy Zincarft

"Stupidest laws in existence"

John Burke

"Helmets are for kids and mentally disabled and for people who prefer to wear them. Helmets can cause you to sweat, which runs into your eyes. Helmets should be worn in big Cities, Towns, and busy streets"

Ted McGrath

"sensible riding without helmets."

Shane Pashen

"Give us the right to CHOOSE!"

Nick Orloff

"I know people that have not ridden a bike since the day the helmet law came in and vowed to not ride until it was taken away."

Robert Hoehne

"All you have to do is ride a bike while pregnant and it is suddenly obvious to everyone (strangers included) how little protection a helmet offers. This law has been unsuccessful and ultimately has created a situation where drivers blame cyclists for their vulnerability, if indeed they acknowledge it at all. We need to remove barriers to cycling. A bike is a healthy, cheap, green, and congestion-reducing way to travel. It is great for individuals and the State's road and health

budgets."

Alacoque Dash

"Love the ads! Particularly the one that shows international cyclists cycling without helmets as criminals! Shows how stupid and ill-conceived this law is!"

Linda Carmody

"Europe has a bike culture. People from all walks of life using bicycles for transport, recreation, sport etc. In Australia we have a bicycle cult, where cyclists wear loud colored Lycra and the helmet is compulsory. Why do we have to be treated as we were under guardianship, surely everyone can make up their own minds about this matter."

Markus Egli

"Northern Territory has had exemptions for some years, cycling rates are much higher there !!"

Straughan

"Let's get Australia fit - Helmets cut down visual perception and makes riding more dangerous I feel."

Blair Alexander

"Its time to give us back a choice"

Josh Dransfield

"it should be a personal choice to wear a helmet"

johnathon cole

"I saw the add on TV .. Its one thing to want a safer world .. its another issue entirely to make unoffensive behavior criminal."

Ian

"Thanks for being. It is so hard for governments to take back such restrictions no matter how rational the argument. Your effort may have influence---or a least give the powers that be pause for thought over their assumptions."

Lee Shipley

"Absolutely agree with the right to choose"
Tony Jennings

"Bring back choice"
Scott MacQueen

"Stupid rules, do nothing for safety and make cyclists feel like they look like an idiot."
Kristian

"These laws are absolutely rubbish"
Dale Burrows

"Wearing a helmet should be the riders choice"
Troy Enright

"I got booked for riding my bike without a helmet, to make it worse the cop was an absolute clueless jerk who almost arrested me."
edris karimi

"Brisbane's City-cycle program would be much more appealing without helmet requirements!"
Dani O'Neal

"All I want is the right to choose"
Tyson White

"Repeal ridiculous helmet laws for cyclists, it's been the urk of cycling since it was introduced & stops hoards of people from riding bikes.."
linz

"Give the people back the right to choose"
Alby

"Helmets should never be compulsory & push bike registration should never be introduced."

Ken Page

"Freedom of choice."

Damian waters

"A lot of people are reluctant to cycle somewhere if it means that they arrive with 'Helmet Hair'"

Mark Wilding

"By all means, remove the helmet laws, as I too think they're ridiculous, but at the same time, you should start a campaign to start charging cyclists a registration fee for their bikes, as well as a T.A.C. charge on top. If they're entitled to claim T.A.C. in the event of an accident on our roads, then they should also be charged for it. And before you jump up and down and say that cyclists pay for T.A.C. on their car registrations, I pay those charges on ALL OF MY VEHICLES, including cars and motorcycles, not just one vehicle. If they want to use the roads and be treated like all other road users, THEN THEY SHOULD PAY JUST LIKE THE REST OF US DO. That may stop them from running red lights, running stop and give way signs, and just being a general pain in the ass on our roads."

Sab

"Many more people would ride a bike. Remember Premier Richard Court was photographed not wearing a helmet. I dont think police enforce the law"

Bill Hicks

"Most people I see on bicycles are not wearing thier helmet correctly"

Paul Gilbert

"I don't want to wear a helmet - I only cycle short distances and in suburban areas - usually very slowly."

Bianca Dohne

"as someone who had to go to magistrates court for not wearing a helmet this law

needs to change for adults asap"
Josh Anderson

"To Whom It May Concern, As a motorcycle courier 11 years experience (1988 to 1999) pushbike helmets are of virtually no help in the safety of their wearer. Driver awareness and CARE of fellow human beings ought to be the highest priority. Tourism: other nationalities will not wear helmets anyway as they are unclean when shared and of NO perceivable benefit. Namaste, Steven G Taylor."
Steven G Taylor

"Helmets are not required for people taking a leisurely ride along a cyclepath or through the park."
Brendan Mitchell

"Toss the helmets and I will buy a bike"
Brian Thompson

"Treat adults like adults. Get rid of the helmet law. We deserve freedom of choice"
Simon Stanford

"We need to look at the big picture. Get people on bicycles first, then with peer pressure, educate them into accepting the benefits of wearing a helmet. Better than leaving them watching the box, dying early from a sedentary related illness."
Mark Pearce

"I have skin cancers on my head which are made worse by sun shining through the helmet vents. About 1/80 deaths in Oz from skin cancers. 1/4000 from bike crashes. How will a 15kmh helmet protect me in a 80kmh car/truck crash?"
Alistair McDonald

"Cycling needs to be considered as a means of commuting not just for the lycra brigade who ride as if there is no tomorrow. Having lived for several years and commuted by cycle in Amsterdam one realizes how safe and efficient cycling is with good infrastructure and the right cyclist attitude."
Geoff Carroll

"I hate wearing a helmet when cycling I feel so restricted and uncomfortable. That's why I don't wear one. I would cycle more often if it wasn't for the chance of getting hassled by the cops. Haven't been fined yet! :D they would give us the talk and tell me to push me bike...but this was in Perth, I just moved to Melbourne could be different here :s"

David Saastamoinen

"Remove the Fine and allow free choice, stop smoking! Help people onto bikes and get a healthier attitude, watch pictures of cities and towns where people are happy to cycle, some wear a helmet of their own choice! Do not use this as a political ball!"

John Biggs

"E-scooters and Ebikes are the new technology to get people out of their cars. Many don't make the move when told they must wear a helmet!! MHL,s restrict the use of personal mobility devices!!"

Mark Johns

"Helmets for kids 12 and under, but not for adults who have learnt 'how to fall'."

John Murfett

"More Dutch style cycling for the inner suburbs. The inner suburbs should not be the free-ways of the outer suburbs. Encourage park & ride with parking stations on the city outskirts. Congestion charges for all CBD areas are needed!"

Simon Claringbold

"Get more cyclists on the road to make them the majority not minority"

joe ardi

"I dont think people should have to wear a helmet to go the local shop on a bike path."

Cheryl Smith

"I used to commute 14 km and 9 km each way by bicycle in Adelaide before helmet compulsion, and later everywhere in London by bicycle. Since returning to Adelaide over 10 years ago I've probably gone less than 10km by bicycle"

purely in protest at this insulting law. Now 50, I'd love to get back on the pushie. I'm sorry I only found out about the protest ride after it happened - Velo credibility = zero on this one. All the very best with the continuing protest. Regards, Zoom S."

Zoom Strange

"I believe if I am made aware of any possible harm, I should have the freedom to choose to wear a helmet or not."

Joel Watson

"All personal safety devices should be used under the discretion of the person.re: helmets"

Nathan Nostaw

"freedom"

david watson

"Get rid of the helmet law. If you want to use one should be up to you."

Frans

"I believe, and have experienced, that helmets contribute to safety. However I support freedom of choice. The lack of a helmet risks the rider, nobody else."

Tim Britten

"Let's educate the silly people who think that removing the MHL will make it illegal to wear a helmet!"

Kevin Joy

"I am sure more people would ride if they did not have to wear a helmet. When I go overseas I am not expected to wear a helmet, so why in Australia?"

Renate Moore

"We will never have a successful bicycle sharing scheme until compulsory helmet laws are repealed."

Chris Jones

"I want laws based on facts not ignorant opinion."

Gareth Lock

"In my view helmet laws have been the worst thing thing this country has even done to cycling. It not only makes cycling look more dangerous than it is, but in the event of a collision with a motor vehicle it provides little protection, and encourages risk taking by both the cyclist and the motorist, thereby completely negating its use. Furthermore, the cyclist is the only person who is in the position of being able to judge if helmet wearing if of benefit to him or her or not. There are for more motorists killed by head injuries than cyclists, therefore if cyclists are forced to wear helmets, so should motorists."

Ian Sims

"Helmet Law reform is desperately needed in Australia."

Jacob

"Riders on bike paths and riding under 25 kmh should not be forced to wear helmets."

Tim O'Toole

"If you want bike usage to increase then dump this arrogant requirement"

Russell burton

"Keep up the great work !"

Barb

"The bicycle helmet law is ridiculous. I spend a third of my life in Colorado where I'm legally fine without a helmet. I come home to Australia and I can't even go 200m to the corner shop without having to put a helmet on. Please take me back to the old days. I'll be happy to contribute to the very slight possibility of my extra hospital bill caused by my not wearing a helmet (as long as smokers, who can legally smoke as many packets a day as they want, thereby causing definite self harm and definite extra hospital bills, contribute more to their hospital bills also.)"

John Fahey

"freedom to wear or not helmet on push bikes. better for health, environment and

for beautiful bottom !"
janet Besanlon

"I used to ride in the golden days before the safety Nazis ruined cycling and I was quite happy to wear my Guardian helmet on highways and dangerous trips when I felt it was appropriate for ME to do so. I remember almost overnight there were hardly any bikes in the racks at school anymore. Nor can you can one find a decent helmet anymore (polystyrene with a shrinky-dink shell is a joke) and riding in 6 months of the year is uncomfortable and exposes riders to skin cancer. I don't know why Australia hates cycling/cyclists so much, but it does, and the helmet laws are a prime example of the discrimination we are subjected to - I wont be voting for the major parties in future until the law is finally repealed. At the very least, helmets should no longer be "approved" unless they offer the same level of sun protection as required in the workplace for outdoor workers/school kids etc.."

Andy

"I dislike the way people are characterised when they advocate helmet law reform. I am not necessarily anti-helmet, but I strongly believe we do not need compulsion. Must I put a helmet on to roll around to my local shops? The law puts many hurdles in front of people who would otherwise ride."

Michael Simms

"I would like to ride my bicycle without a helmet please. It's a question of civil liberty...wearing a helmet should be an option not a law. You're not necessarily safe because you're wearing one. You're not safe from the sun for example, and yet you're not allowed to wear a brim on your helmet."

Zara

"I'm all for making helmet use optional ... donning it for a fast road ride or mountain bike blast - leaving it off when rolling down to the shops or riding mostly along shared paths to school, uni or work."

John Wilson

"Agree . Prefer riding without a helmet"

Riaan

"I strongly believe that helmets should be compulsory for primary school children

but optional for all from high school age on. It's so obvious that in high-risk activities that a helmet makes a lot of sense."

David Adderton

"Helmet should be worn but it can't be a law."

Joseph Howley

"Freedom of choice please."

Peter Cumming

"Fully support changes to laws relating to wearing helmets. Prefer to wear a cap or hat to keep the sun off!"

Michael Clarke

"I am a responsible adult capable of making the right choices when it comes to my own safety. So stop smothering me in your fears by forcing me to wear a helmet when riding my bike."

Tom Meulman

"I wear a broad brimmed hat when riding, skin cancer is genuine threat to my health, moreso than a 'maybe' head injury."

Robert Redfern

"hate helmets don't ride my bike because of law in western Australia im 62 years old the health benefits would be great for me if I could ride bike"

john strempel

"I've ummed and ached about this for a long time. Personally I will still choose to wear a helmet. But I think if people have the choice then we will get better bicycle conditions faster. Because pure weight of numbers will ensure it."

melinda kerr

"Since you're much much more likely to get your head smashed going to the pub on a Saturday night where are the compulsory 'pub helmets'? Why pick on cyclists who after all are only trying to get some exercise and save the environment?"

David Frankland

"I'd love to ride a bike again, but not with a helmet, (and not until the driving culture becomes bike-friendly)."

Graham Hepworth

"Helmet laws = revenue, scrap them."

Darryl Rea

"cycle helmets = stops people cycling"

chris probst

"STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO WEAR, GOVERNMENT!"

rageagainstseatbelts

"I used to support compulsory helmet laws, but now after having lived in Sweden for a year, riding every day without a helmet, on good quality bike paths and around drivers properly trained to deal with cyclists, I can vouch that compulsory helmets are entirely pointless. The convenience of being able to jump on a bike with no further hassle is priceless, and without doubt increases the number of casual cyclists on the roads."

Nick Vinciullo

"Give me free choice Some days I will Some days I won't"

Ed TENBERGE

"As an ex racing cyclist, I see the benefit of helmets in competition, but not for city riding. When the law was introduced to Australia, sales of female bikes dropped 30%. Get rid of them and watch bicycles boom."

john coffey

"Keep the law for kids and when on 60kmh or higher roads."

Hugh Spear

"Having just spent 7 weeks in Europe, where very few people wear helmets, I am

firmly of the belief that helmet use should be optional. Unfortunately, the fact that most Australians seem to have been brainwashed into thinking that it is dangerous not to wear a helmet means that we have a big job ahead of us!"

Nicholas Bignell

"As a 60s child, we survived without helmets. I don't wear one and have been fined."

Steve Broberg

"I wear a helmet on the bike but it should not be compulsory as it stops some people from riding"

Rudi Ringger

"I'm one of those one in five people who finds helmets awful enough that they keep me completely off a bike. I actually get around on a razor scooter, which I chose in part because I am allowed to use it on the sidewalks and am not forced to risk my life in traffic, and (I thought) didn't require a helmet. Also, it's really fun! Just today I was stopped on my scooter by a cop on a bike informing me that the law requires me to be wearing a helmet. WHAT??? On a RAZOR SCOOTER?! This helmet fetish has gone too far, at the expense of actually providing safe infrastructure. Evidence doesn't support them for bikes, and it's truly ridiculous for scooters."

Jessica Tate

"Most of the rest of the world has not seen the need to have mandatory helmet laws, how are we different?. No sound evidence of this law saving lives, turns people off cycling and a waste of police time. I would rather wear a hat so I can protect my face from the sun."

Garry O'Toole

"I am an advocate for discretionary bike helmet wearing in Australia. I find it hypocritical that the law does not require us to wear a helmet in a vehicles which kill and injure more cilivians that bicycles. As such we ought to have the right to choose if and when to wear a helmet on a bike according to the level of risk when riding."

Claudia Bergs

"Bicycle helmets are a joke"

Carl Nielsen

"Boo for compulsory helmet laws"
charles ouna

"Although i will probably always ride with a helmet i dont want governments
telling me that if i don't wear one then i will be fined..."
Robert Battle

"I will still wear a helmet most of the time, but I was recently fined for riding
without a helmet an a park path"
Richard Jennings

"People should have the right to choose for themselves."
Mick

"get rid of this law, absolutely stupid"
John

"I support the freedom to choose whether I will wear the helmet or not. It's time
we align with the rest of the world on this issue."
Igor Tesic

"My full support for removing the MHL!"
Hayden Ng

"cycling could save the planet!"
rob

"Also think that adults shouldn't be riding on the footpath."
Vinesh Naicker

"I am an Emergency Doctor with first-hand experience of cyclist injuries. This
stupid, unresearched law saves few lives and does far more harm by reducing

the number of journeys taken by bicycle. The increasing obesity of our country is killing increasing numbers of Australians every year: safe, accessible exercise such as cycling needs to be supported by sensible laws, not discouraged."

Dr Alexander Bennett

"Our helmet standards are behind the rest of the world."

Peter Madigan

"Give me no helmet"

Danny

"The wearing of bicycle helmets should be mandatory for children but optional for adults"

ian kirkwood

"I badly ride my bike because helmets destroy my awareness off what's behind me"

Donald Tadman

"Save lives. Get rid of useless helmets & increase cycling participation!"

Ian Hawkins

"The Laws as they stand are contradictory, confusing, unhelpful, apparently DIFFERENT from state to state & DEMAND updating & made more 'common-sense' for ALL Australians---maybe for NZ too, but I don't know about NZ."

Bob Madell

"havent ridden since helmet laws were introduced 63 now"

j w kerferd

"Wearing a helmet should be an option, not a legal requirement."

robert byrnes

"Look around the world and learn: mandatory helmet laws do more harm than good."

Andy Barrow

"The helmet laws are ridiculous, firstly they are lengthy and non nondescript. No universal commonwealth law as state laws appear to override and on the east coast there are different helmet laws in QLD, NSW and Victoria meaning technically if I had pissed off officers and ride to Victoria I would have to carry three helmets. European and American safety laws for helmets cover many more millions of people than australia yet australians cant wear european and american approved helmets. The overseas helmets have a greater choice and this persuades use compared not wanting to use helmets. Its time to grow up Australian politicians as you all agree on your pay inceases yet there is no united Australia. Be a legend a leader and make decisions that matter. One law that is discussed with the motorcycling community with the use of european and American helmets for every state and territory of Australia. Cheers Derek"

Derek O'Donnell

"We live in an over regulated society. Australia thought that this regulation was a good idea, but the rest of the world does not so it has not caught on. Lets get rid of it and have a look at so much of the other ridiculous regulation which dogs our society."

Graham Mason

"Cyling should be encoraged and helmet use should be at the discretion of the rider."

Sam Cannuli

"I'm likely to keep wearing a helmet anyway. But this is about choice, and removing the impediments that stop more people getting on bikes more often, so I support the campaign."

Belinda

"I am a triathlete and i agree that helmets must be worn during training for a race, or during a race, for liability and insurance reason. But ! in moderation, riding with a family on a designated cycle way, to and from work, or to the shops for unknown reasons i am in 100% in support with the no helmet law. I also think it should be of choice to wear or not to wear..Good luck with the petition...because cycling has change my life."

John Raleigh

"low speed cycling is safer and healthier for society and low speed cycling requires mass participation that compulsory helmet laws discourage. Helmets should be compulsory for road cyclists"

Liam Kelly

"MHL is a Band Aid solution. The real solution is to instil in the Australian public the understanding that cycling is a safe normal activity not requiring specific PPE., and it is only sports cyclists exposed to a higher level of risk which they accept that require helmets."

Richard Burden

"Can't wait to get the helmet off and get on the road ! All laws associated with safety must be based on well researched and verified data before being enacted not on the say so of some politician/public servant just because it sounds a good idea, otherwise as is the case in Australia the unintended consequences create a worse not a better outcome overall."

George Burrows

"I think its ridiculous that Muslims cannot wear a helmet due to wearing their turbans yet I can get a fine because I choose to not wear one and therefore accept all responsibility for any injury I sustain."

Zach Woodman

"Bravo for pushing for MHL reform. I support you wholeheartedly."

Matt Banks

"I come from a rural town where the law enforcement is bored a lot and I remember constantly being pulled over and threatened with fines for not wearing a helmet, seeing as I was generally aged between 12-16 during this time the only thing it lead to was fear. Of course I still rode my bike despite being told it was supposedly dangerous but I did find myself watching my surroundings constantly trying to ensure I was never caught. Probably only made it 'more' dangerous in hindsight."

Liam Stewart

"bring it on I've hated wearing helmets since the absurd law was introduced."

andy grant

"It's the only thing that can make the Melbourne bike hire scheme viable and the authorities should consider that other countries manage perfectly well without compulsion."

Paul worden

"If it really is JUST a matter of safety.. car drivers should wear helmets too."

Dean O'Callaghan

"Please allow Sikhs to wear their turbans while riding their in subarbans are streets at least if not on hyws."

Bhupinderpal Singh Chhina

"Words cannot describe how stupid this law is!!! Get rid of it!!!"

Dan

"I haven't been on a bike since the helmet law was passed"

henry harris

"We will make a difference when we are as one"

John lymberatos

"Make helmets mandatory for under 12"

Rowan Carson

"I have just ridden 34,000km through the Americas. Almost all without a helmet. It was great to have the choice."

nigel smith

"Helmet laws are just another example of the tyranny we live under in QLD & most of Australia."

D strange

"Consider the additional benefit in reducing obesity if people could avoid helmet

hair!"

Tom

"I live near a beautiful coastal cycling path, I would like the choice of whether to wear a helmet or not, whilst enjoying the environment on a bike."

David Case

"Studies have shown helmets don't increase safety, but discourage people from riding. It's time we made the change."

Lachlan Fraser

"I have mixed feelings about this. But I'm sick of the Nanny State"

Kevin Howard

"Hey Mr Barnett, show we are not in a nanny state by allowing us to choose whether or not to wear a bike helmet when cycling!"

Pete Poland

"A totally unenforceable and unenforced law. Get rid of it and let everybody (not kids) ride free"

Mike Doherty

"Maybe petition for law to be removed above 18 years old."

Graham Hartree

"The priority must be to get people active. If helmets are so wonderful why not for the occupants of motor vehicles travelling at 110 - 120 kph? How many of them died of head injuries last year? about 400 - 500. Think how many lives would have been saved!"

Russ Webber

"Look at all the countries where cycling is popular, hmm they don't seem to need helmets ! Lower speed limits in built-up areas, and create safe effective dedicated bicycle paths... these save lives and increase the viability of cycling... laws written by car drivers forcing cyclists to wear helmets is like have a male Minister representing Women !!"

chris johns

"Safer, separate cycleways will save more cyclists from fatal injuries. Better cycleways will help more people to take up cycling thus helping them to active and healthier lives."

Rajan

"Rode a bicycle 1971 until ~1996 without a helmet ...no accidents. Not much since am 20 kgs overweight now.. I want to be able to ride 2 or 3 blocks to the shops without the hassle of needing a helmet, maybe for longer trips I'd be an idiot not to wear one, but that's my decision . Why don't pedestrians or skiers have to wear helmets? If people wore helmets compulsorily when partying they'd be less likely to get hurt seriously if ' king hit'. Ok so you say people are more likely to be punched because a helmet protects them ...well the same things goes for cyclists ..many take more risks wearing helmets and motorists take less care when a cyclist has a helmet. Politicians don't mind passing laws which don't affect them personally eg bicycle helmets"

Richard Tonkin

"At the speed in which most commuting cyclists ride, I believe the compulsory helmet law isn't necessary. As a Child, I rode all the time pre-helmet days, have had a few stacks as you do when you're a show-off kid but never once hit my head.....the average speed is rarely much more than 20kph. If the helmet law was scrapped, you'd get a lot more people riding bicycles. Many women in particular hate having their hair messed up. In countries such as Japan where many people commute to train stations by bicycle never wear helmets because it's just so inconvenient. They've got the best idea.....almost every train station has multi-level bike parking stations. It should be voluntary to wear helmets if those who find it important but for the low speed in which cyclists go....I think it's stupid to enforce such a law."

Dave Johnston

"Stupid law"

John Blomfield

"I live in Munich, and i dread the day when i must return to sydney to have to deal with no bike riding and now good lanes. Children here are made to learn bike and pedestrian rules and are tested on it. Because of this - there is a much bigger respect towards riders."

Luisa Bougoukas

"I object to mandatory helmet laws as we seem to be one of a few global cities that enforce them. Let adults decide if they wear a helmet or not!"

Dennis Halloran

"MHL is one of the biggest deterrent to more people cycling for transport and key to the failure of bike share schemes here in Aus"

Ben Triefus

"The sooner the helmet laws go - for adults at least, the better. If people are worried about repeal of the laws for city areas with high traffic levels, perhaps repeal the laws for all NSW outside a radius of 100 km from the GPOs in Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong."

Dudley Horscroft

"Helmets have a certain usefulness and a place in cycling, although it important that as the cyclist we get to make the decision on when to wear a helmet."

joel

"MHL are restrictive. I will wear a helmet when I need to, for example, when training on the road, but I shouldn't have to wear a helmet when tootling to the shop on my dutch city bike."

Peter Smith

"It appears to be working in QLD, more cyclists, more dedicated shared pathways, less CO2, less costs for health"

John Watt

"I lived and cycled in London without a helmet for two years. I am an adult and can make an adult decision as to when and if I want to wear a helmet."

paul fairlie

"I would still wear a helmet on main roads but give people the choice if the evidence backs this up."

Paul Ludlow

"Take the examples of truly biker-friendly countries, such as Japan, where you see elderly men and women ride their bikes to the corner shop without helmets and on the footpath. Thank you."

marcos pougy

"This silly law that no other country has is not necessary. Small children leaning to ride could possibly benefit from a helmet but is not necessary for adults."

Ian Daly

"Australians all let us rejoice, For we are young and free (to choose whether we want to take the helmet with us or not), With courage let us all combine To advance Australia fair. We just want a fair go on our bikes."

Mike & his bike

"I choose not to smoke cigarettes, do drugs or drink alcohol, however I love the thrill of a fast bike ride with the wind rushing through my hair . . . and while I have hair, I will make every effort to enjoy this safe and cheap thrill!"

Murray Howse

"Give us the freedom to ride"

Bruce O'Connor

"There are better laws that have more impact on the safety of cyclists than helmet laws. (a meter matters)"

Marty

"They don't have to wear helmets in Europe where more people ride bikes."

Martin Moskov

"If millions of Dutch manage to ride without a helmet isn't it a bit embarrassing and demeaning to think that we can't?"

John Dow

"Received \$50.00 no helmet fine for deciding to ride my bike for groceries. Police

were thugs and let down my tyres. I was not braking the law."

Jeremy

"In my younger days, I rode a bike halfway around Australia and on most weekends I was always cycling in the countryside somewhere sans helmet. I later lived overseas for a time; no helmets needed to cycle there. I come back to Australia and find I am now living in a Nanny state where some anal, goody-goody wimp with nothing better to do has seen to FORCE his/her insecurities on my head. Why not go to the nth degree and force the wearing of full body armour; I've hurt elbows, knees and wrists, never my head. In all the years I cycled, I was never attacked by magpies in nesting season. I have been left shocked and bloodied after magpie attacks, all due to the #\$\$%^@!! helmet 'cos funny thing, take the helmet off and the magpies leave me alone. But then I'd get fined, wouldn't I? It's my head, let me cycle without the stupid helmet."

Steven Hughes

"Non mandatory helmets encourage cycling and lets people choose when to use a helmet for length and speed of trip."

Gus armstrong

"Well done. Current laws are too restrictive and impede common sense. I have (grown up) children who would ride far more often but for the obligation to wear a helmet. Clearly the benefits of greatly increasing the cycling population would far outweigh the (debatable) benefits of coerced helmet wearing."

Frank Di Giorgio

"There are times and places it is good to use a helmet but mainly just discourages people from riding. Many places it would be just as safe to ride without a helmet as to walk or drive without a helmet. Like to see what would happen if there were laws forcing helmets for driving and walking alongside a road."

Warren

"For everyday social riding helmets are just NOT needed."

Graham Wood

"You cannot lawfully expose children to anything likely to endanger them (section 326 Qld Criminal Code), such as a thick lump of foam which will grab on impact

with the road, causing an increase in the chance of really bad rotational brain injuries and broken necks. and then there's the increase in exposure to uv on the face. Your Bicycle helmet regulation is not lawfully enforceable in Queensland and I have proved it in Cairns by continue to ride with a sun hat and refusing to pay the fines for 20 years"

Alex Reid

"Happy to have helmet use non-compulsory - I would use mine in appropriate circumstances - commuting, off-road - but not necessarily all the time. This would also help the business of bikes for hire."

Shane O'Brien-Lynch

"Australian helmet laws only serve to discourage cycling in general and to encourage some cyclists to go too fast. They also indirectly encourage obesity, heart disease and foster Australia's 'nanny-state' mentality."

James Anthony

"About time. Lets make it happen."

Damian Ablett

"let me make the choice, not the police."

brendan morse

"Most people will choose to wear a helmet whether they are compulsory or not."

Chris Jones

"Compulsory helmets makes it harder to establish a bicycle as an any time, anywhere means of transport. Any bicycle share system as it exists in Melbourne is not going to work if you have to ensure you have a bike helmet on you before hiring the bike. This is even more problematic for tourists. And Europeans laugh at us."

Andreas Piefke

"i rode a bike for 25 years before helmet laws were introduced and didn't die or suffer head injury"

Angus laing

"How ridiculous is it that helmets are even required on a cycle path well away from the road! That at least needs to go."

Jason McAndrew

"I'd always wear a helmet but for programs like Bike Share in Melbourne it is burdensome."

dave beltakis

"I like helmets but don't endorse the law demanding that I wear one!"

RossChamings

"Nobody questions whether there is a need to wear a helmet when they walk or drive to the shops. Wearing a helmet to ride to the shops makes just as much sense."

Matthew Fenech

"To wear or not wear a helmet should be up to the cyclist, as nobody can possibly get hurt except for the cyclist in any case."

Anna Smirnova

"Helmets can save lives in a crash. Fact. Helmets deter many people from cycling. Fact. Less bikes on the road significantly increases risk to riders. Fact. So, COMPULSORY helmet laws kill people. Fact."

Tim Williams

"We are a family with 6 children, 2 cargo bikes and eBikes and a large collection of other bikes AND NO CARS! Helmets are great BUT the current system does cater for the variableness of life and is restricting bikes from being a real transport solution for the general public. Example 1: HOW DO YOU GET A HELMET ON AN INFANT? Anything under 1 is down right impossible! Example 2: Kids in a cargo trike? Strapped in and not going to fall over! Frequently have a roof over their head and very much like a car that only travels sub 25km/h WHY?!? You try it and it is NOT practical. Example 3: Cycle to somewhere and pickup / swap kids. You just can't carry a bundle of spare helmets where ever you go. Example 4: in business attire and just need to nick around the corner to run an errand... You don't want to mess you hair. FACT: If you want cycling to be a real transport solution look how it is working in Europe! Solution: If you are in

vehicular traffic - you must wear a helmet."

Anthony van Duyn

"Agree mandatory use of helmets for adults riding bi-cycles limits the number of people wanting to use the thier bi-cycle for commuting purposes"

Richard Overall

"What happed to free choice ? Why wasn't there a referendum with these laws before they were legislated?"

Bryan O'Connell

"As has been proven in great cycling cultures around the world, compulsory bicycle helmet laws are NOT necessary. These laws discourage cycling in some instances, particularly where bikes would have otherwise been used for trips to social gatherings. I believe these laws are partly responsible for Australian bike share schemes failing to be as effective as they could be. The safest thing for cyclists is having more people cycling. Everything should be done to encourage this. I personally would wear a helmet for trips in which I plan on riding fast on main roads, but would like the choice of not wearing a helmet when picking up a bike share bike to cruise along the beachfront or river, through a park, on a bike track or through some back streets. I do not believe these are dangerous scenarios which warrant a helmet."

Chris Wright

"Helmet laws infringe freedom and discourage riding. They're ok for minors but adults can decide for themselves."

Stephen King

"Freedom of choice"

Michael

"Yes!"

Tom Twelftree

"I believe that the helmet laws should be optional for anyone but if you choose not to wear one then you choose not to be covered in case of an injury ti which could have be prevented by the wearing of the helmet the young generation

needs to be taught the safety of the helmet with all the facts about wear or not wearing one so they can then make the choice for them self i also believe that if we could change the way motorist look at cyclist then the place to which we cycle could be come safe for all to use"

brendan ferguson

"It's not the role of government to protect people from themselves."

andy linford

"I wish and hope so badly that this rule will be reformed. I love cycling and dislike the helmet sooooo much!!"

Marte Barends

"I hate wearing a helmet. I'm holidaying overseas soon just so I can ride without a helmet"

Ian Hammond

"The research has been done and my vote is in. May the future of cycling be merry :)"

William O'Brien

"Sign me up."

Steven Kos

"Silly laws. Repeal and use education rather than enforcement."

Stewart Fleming

"Wearing a helmet should be a choice, not a law"

Brian Gibbons

"If the rest of the civilised cycling world (Scandinavia and Japan) isn't governed by mandatory helmet laws, why should Australia?"

Rebecca Mutch

"The decision to wear a helmet should be up to the individual or parent in the

case of children"
Jon Hunter

"Why are we the only country in the world with this law? Helmets for kids - sure ,
but not for adults. Make helmets a choice - not a law."
Gray Pritchett

"Mandating helmets is an imposition which discourages ordinary people from
riding bikes for everyday purposes. Riding a bike is no more dangerous than
walking."
Philip French

"At the speeds I ride I sometimes find very fit joggers passing me.They should
have to wear a helmet I think lol. Really though,I feel that helmets for under 18's
should be compulsory but at 18 and over you should be able to make up your
own mind based on the type of riding you do."
Steph

"I think helmets are a disincetive for people who are starting to ride."
Max Wright

"I believe that helmets are an effective safety device and I wear a helmet when I
go for a ride, however I feel that helmets should be a recommended option and
that we should have the right to wear one or not. It really depends on the type of
cycling that you are doing and where you are doing it."
B Taylor

"This law needs to go"
Paul Bowman

"more pedestrians are killed than cyclists, where are their helmets?"
Peter Newberry

"at last"
john mckay

"not needed other than for riding at speed or over obstacles such as mountain biking. Originally from the Netherlands so quite familiar with the issue.."

Dennis de Vreede

"Fully support this. Ever been to Amsterdam? Millions of bike-riders, and not a single helmet in sight!"

Jean-Marc Schwob

"No helmet on parks, slow lanes and city street. Helmets for racing, speed lanes & highways Bike Registration for speed riders"

Rene Carrasco

"Since reading the Birmingham University study into cycling helmets, I have ceased wearing a helmet. If ever I am prosecuted, I will refer this study to the magistrate."

Ian Ellis

"Let adult riders choose. School children should wear helmets. Better to have exercise than avoid cycling due to a nanny state law"

Tom newsome

"There is a time and place for helmets, just not all the time and everywhere"

Charlie Gascoyne

"get rid of helmets"

MLT

"Cyclists should have the choice on wearing helmets, maybe kids up to a certain age should be regulated, but not adults"

Steve

"We need need Australian cities to be designed for people and not for cars"

Ernst Scholtz

"Dr Paul Martin submitted in the parliamentary inquiry into cycling issues:
'Interestingly, the Northern Territory allows adult cyclists to ride without helmets on foot and cycle- paths and they have the highest bicycle mode share, greater utility or transport cyclist numbers and a greater percentage of women riding than any other state or territory.' Source:
<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/THLGC/2013/INQ-CYC/rp-39-29Nov13.pdf>"
Vaya W

"Nicer feeling"
Bruce Lewis

"Statistical studies in other countries show OVER and OVER that the probability of accidents goes UP when using a helmet. Numerous health benefits of NOT forcing helmets to be worn should be considered. (Children excepted - over 16 only)"
Michael Lean

"This law is ridiculously applied. Out of necessity, I was forced to ride my daughter's pink girl's bike to the shops early one Sunday morning along a long straight wide and flat stretch of road. the cops fined me \$69 for no helmet - no warning nothing - and gave me the reason that 'you could come off the bike'. the cop who fined me also said that he was happy to fine both adults and kids not wearing a helmet. where's the sense of this? while the law has it's uses, it either needs to amended (e.g. to apply only to cyclists travelling at greater than a certain speed or on a public road (not footpath/cycle path), only over 18 or repealed if they can't work it out."
roderick siebel

" Would like to see Brisbane CityCycles not require helmets and to take credit cards at the bike sites so it could be used impulsively."
Barbara Henderson

"European countries with no helmet legislation have high rates of cycling and low rates of obesity and diabetes. If we have to wear cycle helmets they should be GST-free."
Harry

"Summer climate makes helmets extremely uncomfortable"
Julie Kemp

"I believe more people would ride if they didn't have to wear a helmet. I wonder how many lives are saved by wearing a helmet and how many are saved by better road rules."
Margaret Robertson

"I'm all for the Reform Helmet Law It's a long time due"
Rita Crump

"Helmets are preventing cycling becoming a normal mode of transportation instead of just a sporting activity"
Boden Garman

"I believe we should legalize adulthood. Instead of the State, let adults choose for themselves if helmet-less cycling is an acceptable risk."
Daniel Glastonbury

"This law was enacted without due consideration, supported by a majority to whom it does not apply. The rest of the world has not followed Australia's lead; on the contrary, they've left us behind. To paraphrase Ronald Reagan: tear down this law."
Peter Hayes

"Helmets wearers take more risks. Helmet wearers are more susceptible to skin cancer. Motor vehicles pass closer to helmet wearers Compulsory helmet wearing for adults is irrational when compared with countries that have larger cycling populations."
Derek Tsang

"Do you know that the only testing on cycle helmets is for frontal (face-plant) impact? They could well be making the far more common side impact injuries worse! We simply do not know."
Ken Stephens

"I support helmet choice. Repealing mandatory helmet laws would bring Australia into line with the rest of the world."

James Mahon

"It is beyond me that I have to wear a bicycle helmet to ride down to the local deli to buy a newspaper and if I want a packet of cigarettes - think about it. What hypocrisy. It states on the packet that smoking KILLS."

Mike Dye

"Wearing a helmet should be a choice, not a regulation"

Andrew King

"Yesterday I watched a 30'sh male cyclist endanger a toddler by riding past fast on a shared pathway but it was ok because he tinkled his little bell, then he rode straight across the road from a blind corner but it was ok because he used a pedestrian crossing, then he rode around another blind corner on a shared footpath, ignoring the dismount sign but it was ok because he was wearing a helmet. All this, I saw from the same rider within 50m but it was ok to ignore common sense because he had or used the government mandated safety equipment"

Peter Southgate

"As long as protective gear is forced upon the rider, cycling will continue to be seen as a sport rather than a serious means of transport."

Tim Clark

"I recently moved from Europe where I cycled every day without a helmet and felt safe because of the respect for cyclists and ample cycling infrastructure. A helmet is just an excuse of lazy governments who don't want to invest in changing motorist's attitudes and segregated bike paths which would actually increase the safety of cyclists. Much easier and cost effective for governments to make cyclists pay for some piece of gear which is supposedly protective and then fine them when they do not comply."

Margaret Lowe

"Please do some actual work to stop the drivers of motorised killing machines doing their killing. Most cyclists who die, die wearing helmets."

Martin Geliot

"A cyclist should be able to choose and not be forced to wear a helmet."

Karl-Heinz Pydde

"Most ridiculous law since having to carry a lantern afront a horseless carriage."

Gilbert GRACE

"We need more people, riding more often. Helmet Law Reform can be a vital part of that change."

Tim James

"Ban Compulsory Bicycle Helmets for Riders"

Dave Brown

"Get rid of helmet laws"

Tom McDonald

"While I use bicycle helmet during the intense training, I cannot see the reason to wear one during the recreational riding, especially on bike lanes or suburban streets."

Tom Piotrowski

"Looking forward to the wind in my hair again."

Graham Hall

"The statistics show that we have a high injury/fatality rate compared to all of those countries without mandatory helmets. More people riding is the best way for us all to be safer. Most of us will continue to wear helmets when riding fast or in traffic. But let the visitor , occasional and recreational rider feel more encouraged to ride and use hire bikes. Can keep mandatory laws for children perhaps."

Monica Omodei

"Change cycling culture generally!"

Evelyne de Leeuw

"Bike helmets are dangerously hot, and can cause heat-related illness. Symptoms include headaches, drug-like impairment, aggression and death. This is not safe."

Alan West

"Let us choose. Get people riding again, and maybe then drivers and riders can get along and maybe we could be safer... In the mining industry PPE is always the last resort. Education, training and engineering controls come first... Maybe this could be applied here. educate drivers and riders, get them understanding each other first. Implement proper riding infrastructure. Everyone loves riding, so let everyone ride! (well maybe not everyone, but nearly)"

richard curren

"I've travelled all over Europe and the U.S. and sensibility prevails. Those who are racing, commuting or riding in traffic generally decide to protect themselves. A leisurely casual weekend ride does not require the draconian policing and huge fines we face in Australia. Treat the population like adults and they will respond accordingly."

Peter Fuller

"A money collection scheme. I cycled as a kid without helmet. I like helmets but should not be compulsory everywhere."

Peter Blackmore

"Freedom to choose attire = more casual people simply riding = the motorist sees a person riding rather than only lycra clad pro = safer for all and reduces National health issues... That's what makes a progressive Nation, not more restrictions"

Grant Tobias

"Make it compulsory for under 16's only. I can make up my own mind. Stupid nanny state!!!"

Tony Venables

"Helmets do not save lives. If you want a helmet to save your head on a bicycle, a motorcycle helmet is the way but not practical. To wear a helmet or not wear a helmet should be a choice for those over 17, not the legislation."

Alex B

"If injury occurred directly due to not wearing a helmet then cyclist should be directly liable to at least 50 % of medical expenses."

Malcolm Roberts

"Adults should be able to choose if they want to wear a bicycle helmet."

Tim Clee

"I really want this change to come."

Hugh

"I would definitely ride more if I didn't have to wear a helmet. I only ride for exercise and never very fast or far."

Gary Hahn

"Make it optional so we can make our own mind up whether to wear a helmet or not"

Joan Hill

"I would love to see Australian's free to ride, easily, without limitations and restrictions. A crown of polystyrene won't save my life - infrastructure and attitudinal change towards vulnerable road users and mutual respect WILL save lives."

Sophie Bartho

"Surely we can make our own informed decision on when to wear a helmet. Personally I hate the effect a helmet has on my 'hearing awareness', I know the helmet doesn't cover my ears but the wind noise while I'm travelling reduces the awareness I gain through hearing. Have there been any studies done on this?"

vince harris

"There is no need for a helmet the average person will not fall off a bike and land on their head. save them just for racing bikes."

Peter Smith

"I support revoking mandatory helmet wearing laws, as I am convinced or at least persuaded that they are harming our health. There is little evidence that helmets reduce significant injuries in recreational cyclists, whereas they act as a disincentive both through inconvenience and perhaps more importantly by increasing the perception that cycling is dangerous. We know that cycling regularly is of great benefit to health, so everything realistically possible that can promote cycling should be done"

Dr George Crisp

"I'd love to feel the breeze and freedom while riding my bike through Melbourne"
I Solomon

"The requirement for a helmet puts many people off bike riding, which reduces their exercise options, which can in turn be bad for their health."

Chris Taylor

"Whenever I am in Europe I love to cycle. Not in Australia, because it is most of the year uncomfortable hot with a helmet. Give people the freedom to cycle as they wish. No helmet laws please."

Peter Walson

"Encouraging more to ride has an overall benefit to health and the environment. Educating riders of the benefit of helmets is better than legislation."

Paul PEARSON

"It should be a personal choice to wear a bike helmet, which is worse the odd person getting a head injury or thousands of people missing the exercise on bikes because they hate wearing a helmet. I ride without mine but not as much as I would like for risk of being fined or looking like a rebel."

darren

"I rode to school everyday without a helmet when I was young with no incidents. This is just another irritating nanny-state law that should be repealed."

John Schoenpflug

"We are all sufficiently intelligent to make decisions on this without laws to

enforce a governments view. Originally cars at 10kmh required a man walk in front waving a flag (vehicle speed does not equate to safety) that law was with common sense revoked. Why not the mandatory helmet law ?"

David Dickman

"The failure of CityCycle in Brisbane and BikeShare in Melbourne is in my opinion due to the fact that helmets are compulsory. Impractical to carry a helmet with you everywhere you go, and a pain trying to rent one and return it to get your deposit back, these problems seem to be peculiar to Australia. Helmets are not compulsory in London, and in Holland not a helmet to be seen, yet we don't hear of any carnage of cyclists in these places. Our bike exchanges will never work unless the helmet law is rescinded."

Ivan Colledge

"Wearing a cycle helmet or not should be a matter of individual choice. Careful analysis shows there are risks as well as possible benefits associated with wearing of cycle helmets."

Alan Dow

"I ride a bike every day when living overseas. In Brisbane, I use a car because of mandatory helmet laws for bicycles. If I chose to ride on busy roads here, I'd consider to use a helmet regardless. It boils down to using common sense given a particular situation."

Shane Pedler

"I ride a recumbent trike and can't wear a helmet due to a neck injury and severe arthritis. I am tired of receiving abuses by motorists on my daily rides."

Marijo

"Having to wear a helmet to ride in a bike lane to the supermarket puts me off wanting to ride my bike so I drive my car instead"

Chris Johnson

"Of course I'll choose to wear a helmet if I'm going for a long ride, but for using a bike share bike or riding across town I'd like to be able to choose whether I do. Voluntary helmets and bikeshare schemes work well in London and Paris, why are Australian legislators so stubbornly stupid."

Edward Cook

"Being almost daily on the road with my road racer I am in favour of wearing a helmet at all times"

Richard Fenson

"Helmets should be a choice not a law. I will still wear one, but not for a quick cruise up to the shops."

Greg Scott

"I'd like the law to be repealed for adults, but not children under 12."

Matthew Wright-Simon

"Almost every country in the world do not have bicycle helmet laws. It should be at a person's own risk and discretion to wear a helmet. I know as for myself and others, 'helmet hair' is a major reason why people wont cycle to work"

Stefan

"Safety is about separated areas for bikes - pedestrian and cars - its also about cycle training and respect from both cyclists and car drivers. Helmets restrict cyclists - cyclists save Greenhouses gas."

Robert Alm

"I'd just love to wear my good felt sun hat down to do the shopping or visiting friends. Not have to have to specially protect it in my pannier - swap - re-pack faff faff ... Just park the bike and be on my way!"

John Wilson

"Helmets should be optional for adults, like all great cycling countries!"

Karl IS

"I believe people do care and need laws and discipline but do they need to pay. No I think bike riding is as simple as walking. Do we need a law for walking and wear the right shoes. Cosidering society and the demand for recreation. Such rools should only cater for age groups and certain sectors of society. e.g. long distance bike group vse a ride at the lake with the kids. So different are both but do they really need the pressure of a fine, wouldnt they who are enjoying like a

stroll outside need a helmet law for only enjoying the weather."

Annette lanches

"What's the point of moderating comment, don't you want to reveal the truth on the matter."

Jim Prentice

"Helmet laws are a mistake. Once again politicians listened to the minority and also wanted a 'feel good' subject for a n election. Most of the time individuals have never learnt to fall correctly as they've never been allowed to play as kids due to political correctness. I've been riding bikes for over forty years and have had accidents. I learnt to pay attention on the road and not be arrogant like most of the cyclists today. We live in Perth - not Holland or France. Pelotons should be banned on all roads - they're a nuisance and inconvenience to the motorist. I stopped cycling seriously when helmet laws were enacted."

Keith Mccue

"I want to ride, but don't currently. Way too hot in QLD for a helmet anyway"

Darren Gosnell

"Please end these farcical helmet laws."

Craig Corrigan

"Removal of mandated helmets must be accompanied by improvements in cycling infrastructure."

Jason Hikawai

"Wearing a Helmet should be by Choice not Compulsory"

Kym Ahrens

"Bicycle helmets were never anything more than a road safety propagandist stunt. Brightly colored (yes this is good); but only symbolic against the bloody reality of modern road transport. These days the enforcement of these laws has been all about compliance, not safety. When we choose to cycle rather than drive a motor vehicle, we take another killing machine off the roads. We shall never surrender."

steve

"I haven't ridden a bicycle since helmet laws came in, yet I used to ride quite often just for the joy."

Patrick Grogan

"Helmets are useful in places, but should not be mandatory."

Jason Bond

"Although I am all for wearing a helmet, I think that we should not be forced to wear one for short, slow trips, especially when ridden in side streets or on bike paths."

Colin Wilhelms

"Time to stop being world leaders in health authoritarianism."

Donald

"I used a helmet for years where appropriate - but intensely dislike it for commuting or where separated from traffic"

Neil Shaw

"We are the laughing stock of the world with our ridiculous cycle helmet laws which must be repealed asap."

Paul Howarth

"I stopped riding when the helmet laws came in and the females in my family won't ride because of helmets. Make them a choice for Adults. Let's get more people back on bikes again."

Christopher

"Come on, get bike share into the city"

Sunil Gopinath

"After experiencing the delights of cycling in Darwin - throughout the year! - sans helmet, I'm chuffed to support law reform. The people who created the current law were definitely not post menopausal women cyclists dealing with body heat

which tends to want to escape through the head... Helmets are an unnecessary encumbrance. i ride, i decide."

Julie von Platen

"Take away the helmet for anyone over 16 yrs"

John Hanlon

"I am not all for a complete repeal of the helmet law. My support is for creating zones in inner city areas where cars and bikes are restricted to 20km/h and helmets are not required. On the open road and where you can ride fast I think we should still wear helmets."

Julian Ilich

"Please allow freedom to choose."

Neville

"1000s of cyclists cycle along the beach to Frankston.....where is the bicycle lane?.....in Frankston the bicycle lane cuts out half way through the city"

Ken Gray

"I'd like the option of to wear or not!"

Eric Delaney

"Helmets should be a choice, not a law for adults"

Lee Horan

"The effect of repealing helmet laws will be an overall net benefit to public health."

Andrew Chuter

"Helmets are useless and put people off cycling. European cities don't make a fuss so why should we!"

Lincoln Davis

"Great work Freestyle Cyclists!"

Paul van Bellen

"I have lived in Denmark which has the highest bike participation rate in the world where helmets are optional. Best system in the world without doubt. Why don't other countries adopt their system which obviously works."

Warren

"Compulsory helmet laws significantly discourage casual bicycle use and should be repealed. At a minimum this should apply to adults and could be extended to children, noting the desirability of helmet use where ever possible."

Rob

"It should be a choice, not a law."

Evan Chapple

"I'd ride a bike if it weren't for helmets."

Evan Reeves

"Just recently getting back into casual cycling and id rather not use my helmet it makes me feel less aware."

Trent Bailey

"Common sense needs to prevail. The Dutch and the Danes don't have helmets but still have their heads screwed on."

Ian Walker

"Silly law designed to fail - ie it increases risk - helmets only prevent injury as low speeds from a low height. Overall they do not decrease risk as most serious injuries involve motor vehicles. Wearing helmets encourages bad road behaviour from motorists who travel closer to riders with helmets. Wearing helmets decreases vision, adds unnecessary weight to the spine and skull. Helmets are uncomfortable and unsafe in all but professional road racing scenarios. That does not describe the largest proportion of the people who want to ride for health, pleasure, sensory delight and freedom. I have cycled in rush hour in Amsterdam and Copenhagen. Our nation's helmet laws are a joke, a cruel, evil premeditated attempt to prevent people from achieving independence, health and wellness."

Gilbert GRACE

"completely agree that helmets should be optional"

Alannah McFadzean

"I will still wear my helmet even if it was not mandatory"

peter davis

"Think total health not just bike safety - the biggest health problem is inactivity and the bad habits start in childhood."

Damien Anderson

"The Nanny State stops now! Government does not need to tell us all what is good for us. Freedom for the people!"

Stephen Weston

"Bike riding is not inherently dangerous, scare mongers have made it so and in turn scare people from riding which is a happy and healthy pastime. Proper integration of bikes on trails and shared use on roads would see very little need for a helmet as it would not be dangerous. We don't ask pedestrians to wear helmets nor car occupants even though there is a case that both would benefit from it."

Luke Mills

"The law is pointless, if its a risk then let us judge it for ourselves."

Viktor Alteruthemeyer

"High time to drop the enforcement of this bizarre counter-productive law!"

Andrew Hurn

"Fantastic no helmet ride today, thanks to the organizers!"

amy buxton

"please get rid of this mummy state law!!!!"

Peter C

"Im old enough to ride my bike to the park or shops without a helmet"
rob

"Helmets do put people off cycling and getting fit"
Ian Marks

"Riding 500m to my local farmer's market, in thongs, at <10kph, on the footpath... should not be illegal just because I'm not wearing a helmet. A jogger runs that fast... yet no helmet for them!"
Evan Blair

"I gave up riding when this nanny state law came in."
Gay Lee

"Over 18 million bikes in Netherlands, no helmet laws, only 6 deaths a year due to accidents involving cyclists!"
Graeme Gillan

"supporting choice"
Mischa Dafoe

"No compulsory helmets for adults"
Thierry Habils

"As an adult you should be able to make your own decision. Helmets aren't required for scooters, Rollerblades or skateboards so why with bikes?"
Wayne

"Too many useless laws, too many bureaucrats with nothing better to do. Scrap the helmet law (and a lot of other laws that infringe on our liberties). We didn't need helmets when we were kids and don't need them now!"
Tom

"This law is just stupid . I am an adult and should be allowed to make a free

choice about what I choose to wear on a bicycle"

Craig Homonnay

"Helmets should not be compulsory. I stopped riding because I hate helmets."

Jane Rohrig

"As a transport planning consultant I would like to see a serious review into the mandatory helmet laws that are holding back increased bicycle use in Australia."

James Ramsey

"We should be encouraging more people on bikes not making it less accessible by imposing mandatory helmet usage. The helmet laws have not done what they intended to do and it is time we align with the rest of the world. Australia will be a better place."

Martin Toner

"Absolutely ridiculous law with expensive regulation. Seriously, let's worry about more important stuff."

Vincent vom Kothen

"I used to be a helmet zealot and couldn't understand the counter view. I have now read the research and have an alternative view that MHL are unnecessary and helmet use for adults should be voluntary."

Aaron Wray

"I'm sick to death of being treated like a 3 year old in this country, I am an intelligent adult who is more than capable of weighing up the pros and cons of not wearing a helmet and then making my own choice."

colin phillips

"Let's use science!"

Sam Wilmer-Provan