

Hello,

I'm not sure if this is the forum for the general public (me) to express my opinion, however, after reading about the enquiry in About The House and being a bicycle rider, I feel I need to express my view.

I live in Melbourne and ride to work daily, only 5 kms. I observe the road rules (eg, I don't ride through red lights). Without exaggeration, every day I see or experience impatient and/or selfish drivers. I agree, when it comes to bicycle riders and vehicles, there is fault on both sides. However, we are talking about human life here and I think drivers need to basically be more patient. After all, one more bike means one less car. The following reflect some of my regular experiences.

1. Drivers trying unsuccessfully to fit down bicycle lanes but only managing to block the lane.
2. Drivers racing me to roundabouts and often so impatient that they try to squeeze through with me at the same time (very risky).
3. Drivers not using indicators; eg, waiting beside me (on my right) at intersections, then turning left in front of me (once running over my front wheel) without once indicating.
4. Drivers opening doors (parked or otherwise) without checking.
5. Drivers increasingly running red lights.
6. Motor cycle riders using the bike lanes.
7. Drivers who try to beat me to corners and then turn in front of me regardless of where I am.

Quite frankly, I don't believe the current penalties are enough of a deterrent for this behaviour. Furthermore, I believe impatience is the root of all evil, whether or not a bike is involved.

Regards,  
Tony Margetts