

Bull Bar Ban Or Not, Federal Government Needs To Listen

Sydney & Melbourne Australia, 4 March 2011 - Bicycle NSW, the peak body for cycling/cyclists in NSW, and the Amy Gillett Foundation (AGF), the national bicycling safety body are calling upon the Federal Government to reinstate the review of the regulation of bull bars and allow the public consultation to proceed on this major road safety issue for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users.

The public consultation period for the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) was scheduled to close in April 2011 but the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport, The Hon Catherine King MP, has announced that she has directed the Department to withdraw the RIS.

Whilst banning bull bars is one of the options included in the RIS, Bicycle NSW and the AGF say the Government needs to thoroughly investigate the positions of all industry and experts on this and other issues before it can decide on the best course of action to improve the safety of all road users – in accordance with established practice.

“It seems counter-intuitive to ignore the real dangers that some front vehicle designs can present to pedestrians and cyclists especially at a time when all levels of government are trying to encourage more people to become more active and to walk or cycle to destinations.

Ultimately, what steps are taken in all design aspects is up to the Government to decide – it can only make the best decision after thoroughly investigating the views of all interested parties and with the latest information available from studies here and elsewhere,” said Omar Khalifa, CEO of Bicycle NSW.

The RIS reports over the last decade an average of 232 pedestrians and 31 cyclists were killed in Australia each year due to a motor vehicle collision.

“The Government invests millions of dollars in improving the road infrastructure to enhance the safety of all road users and regulates safety features in motor vehicles to maximise the safety of motorists. Similarly focusing on vehicle design to maximise the safety of fellow road users,



especially those vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists, is an important part of the mix,” emphasised Tracey Gaudry, CEO of the AGF.

“We stand together with the Royal Australian College of Surgeons, the Australian Automobile Association, ANCAP, Council on the Aging (NSW) and the Pedestrian Council in calling on the Government to re-open the public consultation process so they can consider the views of all interested parties and be in a better position to create safety initiatives that will protect all road users, whether you’re a motorist, pedestrian or cyclist,” said Khalifa.

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About Bicycle NSW

Bicycle NSW is a member-based association for cyclists in NSW. Bicycle NSW promotes and supports cycling as a health and environmentally-sustainable form of transport. The organisation also advocates on behalf of its members to improve road conditions and educate road users on safety issues. More information can be found here: www.bicyclensw.org.au

About the Amy Gillett Foundation

The Amy Gillett Foundation was established following the tragic death of Amy Gillett, killed when a motorist swerved out of control into the path of the Australian Women’s Cycling Team. The mission of the Amy Gillett Foundation is for Safe Bicycling in Australia. Its Vision is Zero bicycling-related fatalities. Go to: www.amygillett.org.au

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