

24 September 2018



Parliamentary Officer

Select Committee on Personal Choice and Community Safety

Parliament House

4 Harvest Place

West Perth

**No more compulsory bike helmets !**

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for giving the general public the opportunity to comment on possible legislative changes regarding the compulsory bike helmets law. I have been totally opposed to them from the very beginning for the following reasons.

1. It is an irrefutable fact that helmets have led to less cycling – you have only to look at the racks of unused hire bikes in cities all over Australia to see this.
2. This law has made Australia and New Zealand a laughing stock the world over. No-one in Europe, Asia or the US is forced to wear helmets and their traffic density is far greater than here. They seem to manage all right.
3. Less exercise means more cars on the road and a general decline in public health. Clearly this must lead to more obesity, cancer, diabetes and heart disease and an increased drain on Medicare. Paradoxically this helmet law is indirectly responsible for killing more people than it saves. Whether you die from a heart attack or a bike accident – you're just as dead.
4. Even the 'saving us from head injuries excuse' makes no sense. You are far more likely to suffer head injuries as a result of an assault, so where are the compulsory 'pub helmets'?
5. It's crazy for a government to actively discourage people from keeping fit, especially in this day and age – it both irritates people and teaches them to disrespect the law.
6. There are of course cases where helmets may be a good idea – small children, cycle couriers and road racers for instance, but forcing them on someone who just wants to cycle to the shops or have a leisurely ride round the local park is just plain irritating and stupid.
7. Probably the most important of all. The "safety" industry is a multi-billion dollar money-spinner. The more they play on our fears, the more money they make from flogging unnecessary safety equipment and courses. Being allowed to exercise common sense doesn't even enter into it.

Please give these submissions some consideration at least and let's have a modicum of common sense return to this country of ours.

*"The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not sufficient warrant".*

*John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)*

Yours faithfully

David Frankland MSc