

Queensland community attitudes towards bicycle riders and the minimum overtaking distance trial: tracking research November 2015

The Amy Gillett Foundation commissioned Crosby|Textor to conduct research into Queenslanders' attitudes towards bicycle riders and the trial of the minimum overtaking distance road rules. This research follows an initial benchmark in October 2014, and tracking research in April 2015. This project identifies and tracks awareness and effectiveness of the trial legislation, where drivers must leave a minimum distance of 1 metre when overtaking bicycle riders at speeds of up to 60km/h and 1.5 metres at speeds over 60km/h.

An online survey was conducted between 20 and 27 November 2015. This sample included n=400 randomly-selected Queensland residents, of both drivers and bicycle riders. This sample is representative by age, sex and area, with a maximum error margin of +/-4.9% (at the 95% confidence level). The findings were reported by road user type (as below) and geographic breakdowns between Brisbane (metropolitan) and the Rest of Queensland (regional):

Bicycle Riders	people who ride at least once a month
Only Drivers	people who drive most days or weekdays and rarely cycle
Drivers & Riders	people who are regular drivers who may cycle

Key findings from the research highlighted that:

- Two-thirds of Queenslanders agree with the minimum overtaking distance trial (68%).
- The main reason people gave for their support for the trial legislation was the need for bike riders to be protected in order to make them feel safer (70%).
- 67% agreed that this amended rule will make bike riders feel safer.
- Over half said that 1m, 1.5m or 2 metres (60% combined) were safe distances for a vehicle to overtake a bike rider.
- A majority (76%) are aware of the trial legislation, with almost half (45%) 'definitely aware'.
- Over two-thirds agree (70%) that good communication and education are essential for this trial legislation to work.
- There is some concern around enforcement, with 40% saying it is hard to enforce. 63% said that police must enforce it for the trial to work.
- 65% agreed that bike riders have a right to use the road.
- The issue of safety on the road is the number one barrier (32%) for non-riders, with the perception that riding is unsafe a widespread concern. Even current riders cite that increased space would encourage more frequent riding (26%).

- Among riders, recreational use is the most common (67%), though one-fifth (20%) of riders in Brisbane commute on their bicycles.