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Please Quote: VRPC003733  
(File No: PC012472)

Ms Emma Lindsey  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Lindsey

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF JAMES BERNARD CROSS**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 November 2011 regarding the inquest finding including recommendations made by the Coroner regarding the death of James Cross – Court reference: 1041/10.

VicRoads provides the following responses to the Coroner's recommendations.

**The first recommendation is:**

*Bicycle Network Victoria and VicRoads have both shown support for the recent innovation to relocate bicycle lanes to the left of parking lanes in an effort to reduce the 'dooring' risk faced by cyclists. I recommend that VicRoads work closely with local government to promote the reconfiguration of bicycle and parking lanes. This could be achieved in part through the provision of guidance material to assist local governments in the identification of specific sites where such a reconfiguration would be appropriate.*

**The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.**

VicRoads currently works closely with local councils and encourages them to develop bicycle facilities, appropriate for the road circumstances, to separate cyclists from motor vehicles and from pedestrians. These facilities may be off-road bicycle paths, on-road bicycle lanes or fully separated on-road bicycle lanes such as those in Swanston Street, Melbourne and Albert Street, East Melbourne.

However, any reconfiguration of road and bicycle lanes must be assessed in terms of safety for all road users. This means that a standard reconfiguration cannot be applied and each road must be assessed independently.



In terms of guidance, VicRoads has indicated to the Victorian Bicycle Advisory Council that the next series of *Cycle Notes* (information bulletins on design standards for cycling infrastructure produced by VicRoads) will be based on treatments that provide cyclists with increased separation from motor vehicles. These guidelines will include advice around the use of fully separated on-road bicycle lanes such as on Swanston Street and Albert Street. VicRoads intends to develop this guidance advice in 2012.

**The second recommendation is:**

*I recommend that VicRoads implement a communication campaign to educate motorists of the need to thoroughly check before opening their car door, and to increase awareness among cyclists of the need to remain vigilant when riding past car doors.*

**The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.**

VicRoads has developed a communications campaign for all road users to look out for cyclists. VicRoads expects this campaign will be launched in February 2012. The objectives of the campaign are to:

- foster positive and mutual respect between road users,
- clarify cycling related road rules for all road users, and
- encourage motorists to treat cyclists as legitimate road users and share the road with cyclists safely.

One of the key messages of this campaign will be to educate motorists to check for cyclists before opening their car doors and also for cyclists to be aware of the risk of car doors being opened.

VicRoads is also working with the Road Safe Action Group Inner Melbourne to begin a targeted campaign aimed at drivers and bike riders which addresses the risks associated with open car doors. A pilot of the campaign will be undertaken in 2012 with a view to delivering a wider campaign in 2013. The group consists of the four inner Melbourne councils – City of Melbourne, City of Yarra, City of Port Phillip and the City of Stonnington – Victoria Police, and Bicycle Network Victoria. These councils are in areas where a large proportion of cycling occurs and they have experienced rapid growth in cycling numbers. Therefore this is an appropriate target area for an initial campaign. This group intends to launch this project in the first half of 2012.

Should you require further information, Mr David Shelton, Executive Director - Road Safety and Network Access (Tel: 9854 2700), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



**GARY LIDDLE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

17 / 1 / 2012