



## ***Bicycle Network Mandatory Helmet Review***

### ***Opinion of Peter G. Furth, Ph.D., Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Northeastern University, Boston, MA USA***

1. *Do you believe it should be mandatory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle? (If you believe it should be mandatory at some times but not others please describe when.)*

No.

2. *What are your reasons for your answer to question one?*

Bicycle riding is a form of exercise that is good for human health in many ways. Studies have clearly demonstrated that mandatory helmet laws discourage people from riding bikes. (My family's experience conforms exactly to this research: the day California's mandatory helmet law for children took effect, my nieces and their friends (aged around 15) stopped riding bikes.) Whatever public health gain a mandatory helmet law might achieve through better head protection is more than offset by the public health loss that comes from people riding bikes less. Moreover, the injury reduction benefits of mandatory helmet laws have never been demonstrated in any population-level study.

3. *Do you provide consent for your opinion to be made public?*

**Yes**

4. *If no, are you happy if we say you provided an opinion but didn't want it made publicly available?*

Yes      No

**Signed:**

**Date:** 12 October, 2017

Please send completed form to [craig@bicyclenetwork.com.au](mailto:craig@bicyclenetwork.com.au) before 5pm, Friday 13 October, 2017.

**Making bike riding easy for everyone**

Level 4, 246 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

234 Crown Street  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

210 Collins Street  
Hobart TAS 7000

Suite 5, 18-20 Cavenagh  
Street Darwin NT 0800

Freecall: 1800 639 634  
[bicyclenetwork.com.au](http://bicyclenetwork.com.au)