

This section deals with the rules you must comply with when driving. It tells you about speed limits, what to do at traffic lights and when and how to give way to pedestrians and other vehicles as well as many other rules. However, the most important point is that you must drive with care and consideration of other road users. It is your responsibility to minimise your risk of being involved in a crash by driving safely and obeying the road rules.

Road Rules



Seatbelts and Restraints

Wearing seatbelts is compulsory, not a choice. Modern cars are fitted with seatbelts for all seats, including rear seats. They must be used.

Seatbelts must be worn by people in a motor vehicle when it is moving or is stationary, but not parked. A person must not occupy a seat without a seatbelt if other seats with seatbelts are available.

Passenger's responsibilities

Passengers aged 16 years old or older commit an offence in any moving motor vehicle if they do not wear the seatbelt when a seatbelt is available.

Driver's responsibility

Drivers commit an offence if they fail to wear a seatbelt when one is available.

Drivers (except the driver of a bus or motorcycle rider) also commit an offence if passengers of any age are not wearing a seatbelt or child restraint.

Drivers must ensure children:

Up to the age of six months

- Use an approved rearward-facing infant restraint and must not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats.

6 months to 4 years

- Use either an approved rearward-facing infant restraint or a forward-facing child safety seat with an inbuilt harness and must not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats.

4 years up to 7 years

- Use either an approved forward-facing child safety seat with an inbuilt harness, or booster seat with a properly fastened and adjusted lap-sash seatbelt or child safety harness.
- Do not travel in the front seat of a vehicle that has two or more rows of seats, unless all the other seats are occupied by children who are also under 7 years.
- If there is not enough space to put a third restraint in the back seat, then a child in this age group may sit in the front seat providing they are appropriately restrained. **Note:** Where a child is seated in the front seat you will need to use a booster seat without a top tether strap, as anchorage points are not available for the front seat.

7 years up to 16 years

- Use either an approved child restraint (child safety seat or booster seat depending on their size), or a seatbelt that is properly adjusted and fastened.

Drivers of vehicles manufactured before July 1976 are exempt from this requirement.

Taxis

If there is no suitable child restraint available, taxi drivers must ensure that all children up to the age of 7 years travel in the back seat. Children aged under one year may sit on the lap of another passenger who is 16 years old or older in the rear row, but not between the passenger and the seatbelt. Children aged between 1 year and up to 7 years must be seated in their own seat in the rear row with a seatbelt fastened to the best extent possible given the passenger's size. Children aged from 7 years up to 16 years must also wear a seatbelt.

Vehicles with only one row of seats

If the vehicle only has one row of seats (for example a utility or panel van) a child must be correctly restrained in an approved restraint in the front seat. If a child is required to travel in the front row where there are airbags present, you should always follow the instructions from both the child restraint and vehicle manufacturer. For further information about child restraints visit:

mylicence.sa.gov.au/road-rules/seatbelts-and-child-restraints

How to wear a seatbelt

- Make sure the top part of the seatbelt is on the shoulder (not on the neck or under the arm) and the bottom part is on the hips.
- The belt must be properly adjusted. It must be fitted as firmly as possible while being comfortable and with no twists or knots in the webbing.
- Two people must not be restrained with same seatbelt.
- Remember that a seatbelt is only effective if worn correctly.
- A seatbelt worn loosely may inflict serious injury on the wearer in a crash.
- If your seatbelt has been stressed in a severe crash, it should be replaced

Exemptions

You are exempt from the requirement to wear a seatbelt if your vehicle does not travel more than 25 km/h AND you are frequently required to get in and out of your vehicle AND you are:

- engaged in door-to-door delivery or collection of goods; or
 - operating a vehicle for the collection of waste or garbage.
- << see also 'when a vehicle is moving' and 'opening doors' on page 104 >>*

The following people are also exempt from the requirement to wear a seatbelt:

- Holders of a certificate of exemption from a medical practitioner or from the Minister for Transport. Certificates must be carried by the driver of the vehicle at all times
- Passengers in a police or emergency vehicle, however, if the vehicle has more than one row of seats, a passenger must not sit in the front row of seats.
- A two-up driver of a truck or bus is also exempt from wearing a seatbelt while they occupy the sleeper compartment for rest purposes.
- A person travelling in a historic vehicle that is registered and driven in accordance with the conditions of registration.

Important information about child restraints:

- A child that is properly secured in an approved child restraint is less likely to be injured or killed in a car crash than one who is not.
- Moving your child into a restraint that is too big for their size will expose them to greater risk of injury in a crash. Make sure your child grows out of one type of restraint before moving them up to the next restraint category.
- Children are at greater risk of serious injury when travelling in the front seat.

Care, Courtesy, Common Sense

You must drive or ride at all times with due care and attention, with reasonable consideration for other road users, and while exercising courtesy and common sense. We must all share the road together.

You have a duty to avoid collisions and, where necessary, to give way to other vehicles and pedestrians. The law does not give anyone indisputable 'right of way'. Even when you feel that you have right of way, you must still make sure the other driver is going to give way before proceeding because the other driver may be unaware of your approach.

You may see other road users behaving aggressively or engaging in unsafe driving practices. Don't be pressured by other drivers, and try to stay calm and in control of your vehicle at all times. Don't over-react to thoughtless or deliberately aggressive driving by another driver.

You should also be in control of the inside of your vehicle. Don't let your passengers distract you, obstruct your vision, or influence your decisions by giving advice that may not always involve driving safely.

When you are driving, you should always be able to see everything that is happening on the road. You need to be able to 'scan' or 'read' the road – not just looking ahead but continually moving your eyes and taking sweeping looks at all areas of the road, both close to your vehicle and further down the road. Be aware of what is behind you, as well. Use your mirrors at frequent intervals so that you know what other road users are doing and can anticipate their actions.

Be aware of where your vehicle is in relation to the road and to other vehicles and road users.

- Know where you are in relation to your surroundings: the road, other cars, or pedestrians.
- Stay alert.
- Be courteous and remain calm when others are angry or aggressive.
- Take special care with pedestrians and bicycles.

Watch out for people or anything that is moving or could move, and be ready to take action. Make extra allowance for children, parents with babies, the frail or elderly who may not be able to move quickly.

When you are driving near parked vehicles, you should look out for pedestrians, especially children, who may step out onto the road.

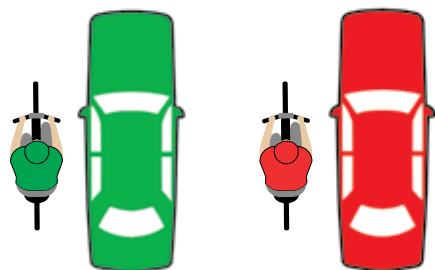
Children are small and can be unpredictable, so be sure to look around and watch out for them. This could save a child's life.

Remember that causing injury or a death would not only be devastating for the family and friends of the victim, but also for you as the driver.

Bicycles are classified as vehicles, and bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as all other drivers. (The meaning of the terms 'driver', 'road user' and 'vehicle' are included in the Glossary.)

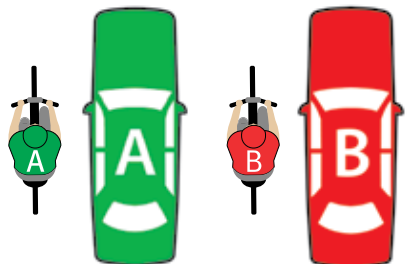
You should also watch for people riding wheeled recreational devices and toys, such as skates or skateboards, on residential streets and footpaths. You have the same responsibility towards them as you do towards pedestrians – while they have the same obligations and responsibilities as pedestrians to take care.

If there are signs or road markings, drivers, motorcycle and bicycle riders must obey them, in every situation.



Green vehicle for complying with a rule

Red vehicle for disobeying a rule

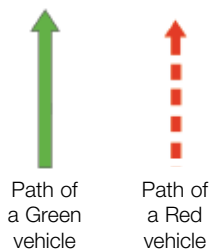


Vehicle with right of way

Vehicle that must give way



Yellow starbursts as indicators



Path of a Green vehicle

Path of a Red vehicle



Road sign



Traffic Lights

The red and green arrows represent the colour of traffic lights

How to read the diagrams

On the following pages diagrams are included to help you understand particular rules in this section of the handbook.

Plan (overhead) views of roads and vehicles are used in many cases to illustrate rules.

In the Australian Road Rules a bicycle is classed as a vehicle.

- In some diagrams, a red vehicle shows where the driver or rider is disobeying or breaking a rule. A green vehicle shows a driver or rider who is obeying or complying with a rule.
- In other diagrams, a red vehicle shows where a driver or rider must give way to pedestrians or other vehicles. The red vehicle is marked with a letter '**B**' while the other vehicle is green and marked with the letter '**A**'.

A solid green arrow shows the path of a green vehicle and a broken red arrow shows the path of a red vehicle.

The yellow starbursts at the corners of the vehicles show flashing indicator lights.

Short green and red arrows positioned off the road at intersections show the colour of the traffic lights as seen from that direction.



Speed Limits

NOTE: If you are the holder of a learner's permit or a provisional licence, you may be limited as to the speed at which you are permitted to drive. Refer to the Drivers and Licensing section for information about special speed limits that apply to permit and some licence holders.

The **speed limit that applies to a road or road-related area** is the maximum speed you are allowed to drive a vehicle.

You should only drive to the speed limit if it is safe to do so. It may not be safe to drive to the speed limit in certain conditions, for example, due to poor weather or heavy traffic or the condition of the road. In these situations, you must slow down to a speed that is safe for the prevailing conditions.

How is the speed limit set?

Within South Australia (and in fact throughout Australia) the maximum default speed limit outside a built-up area is 100 km/h. The maximum default speed limit in a built-up area is 50 km/h. Unless a road sign or a licence condition indicates otherwise, these are the general maximum speeds at which you are allowed to drive. The circumstances under which these limits might be varied are set out below.

Speed limit signs

The speed limit on a section of road may be varied from the above default speed limits by speed limit signs.

Higher speed limits

Outside a built-up area, some roads may have a speed limit of 110 km/h shown by speed limit signs. You may travel up to this higher speed **provided** your driving licence permits you and it is safe to do so. Learner and provisional drivers, for example, **must not** travel at this higher speed.

In built-up areas, some roads may have a higher speed limit (for example 60 km/h or 80 km/h) shown by speed limit signs.

Lower speed limits

Any road may have a speed limit lower than the default speed. This will be shown by a speed limit sign. This lower speed limit applies to the section of road marked by the signs, and you must not exceed this lower speed limit.

Some common examples of reduced speed limits are:

25km/h speed limit

- At a Children's crossing (koala crossing) when the lights are flashing as indicated by a Children's crossing sign.
- When a child is within a school zone, which is formed between a school zone sign and end school zone sign. This applies whenever a child is on the road, footpath, median strip, or even on a bicycle including outside of school hours.

A 'child' means a person less than 18 years of age, and includes a student of any age wearing a school uniform.

A school zone is also marked with zigzag lines on the road where practicable, to show that you are approaching a school zone.

- You must not exceed 25 km/h when passing, in either direction, a school bus that has stopped for the purpose of setting down or picking up children.
- When passing an emergency vehicle that is stationary and displaying blue or red flashing lights or between two sets of flashing blue or red lights << see page 48 >>

40 km/h speed limits

- Some built-up areas (for example residential areas) have a speed limit of 40 km/h indicated by signs on all roads leading into that area.
- On the approach to wombat pedestrian crossings indicated by signs.



Koala Crossing, sign indicates the start of a Koala Crossing.



School Zone, sign indicates the start of a School Zone.

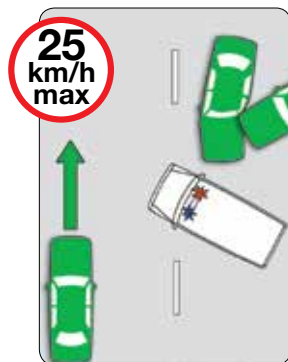


Remember:
25 km/h when passing an emergency vehicle that is stationary and displaying blue or red flashing lights.

General safety speed limits

You must slow down to 25 km/h or a lower speed if required when passing an emergency vehicle that is stationary and displaying blue or red flashing lights or between two sets of flashing blue or red lights. An emergency services vehicle includes:

- ambulance
- fire service vehicle
- State Emergency Service vehicle
- police.



Example 1:

Driver slowing to a safe speed (no greater than 25km/h) when passing an emergency services vehicle displaying red and blue flashing lights that is straddling a dividing strip.

Speed limits at a glance

Unless a sign shows a different speed limit

	L Learner	P1, P2 Provisional	C (car), R (motorcycle) Full licences
Built-up area	50 km/h	50 km/h	50 km/h
Outside built-up area	100 km/h (100 km/h is the absolute maximum speed for learner drivers)	100 km/h (100 km/h is the absolute maximum speed for provisional drivers)	100 km/h unless otherwise signed
Penalties for exceeding the speed limit*			
Exceeding speed limit by less than 10 km/h	expiation fee demerit points	expiation fee demerit points	expiation fee demerit points
Exceeding speed limit by 10 km/h or more	expiation fee demerit points disqualification	expiation fee demerit points disqualification	expiation fee demerit points
Exceeding speed limit by 45 km/h or more	expiation fee demerit points immediate loss of licence disqualification	expiation fee demerit points immediate loss of licence disqualification	expiation fee demerit points immediate loss of licence disqualification

* For more information about expiation fees and demerit points visit www.mylicence.sa.gov.au

Driving on the Road

Keeping Left

When driving on any road that does not have marked lanes you must keep your vehicle as near as practicable to the far left side of the road, except:

- when about to make or making a right turn
- when overtaking another vehicle.

On a road marked with two or more lanes for traffic travelling in the same direction, if the speed limit is greater than 80 km/h or on any road that has a 'Keep Left Unless Overtaking' sign, you must not drive in the right lane except:

- when overtaking another vehicle
- when turning or about to turn to the right and you are giving a right change of direction signal
- when avoiding an obstruction
- when the other lanes are congested.

Dividing Lines

A dividing line is a road marking formed by a white line or two parallel white lines (broken or continuous) designed to separate the parts of a road to be used by vehicles travelling in opposite directions.

Broken line (or broken line to the left of a continuous line)

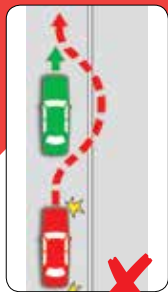
You must keep to the left of these lines (Examples 2 and 3). You may cross them to overtake, or enter or leave the road, or to perform a U-turn where permitted, but you must only do so if it is safe.



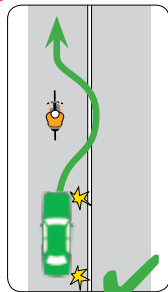
Example 2: Driving to the right of the centre of the road permitted — overtaking on a road with a broken dividing line only.



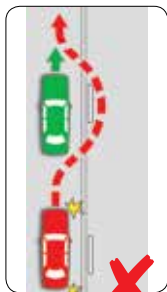
Example 3: Driving to the right of the centre of the road permitted — overtaking on a road with a broken dividing line to the left of a single continuous dividing line.



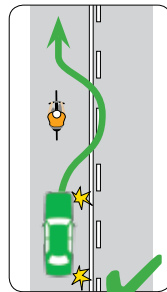
Example 4: Driving to the right of the centre of the road **NOT permitted** — overtaking on a road with a single continuous dividing line is **NOT PERMITTED**.



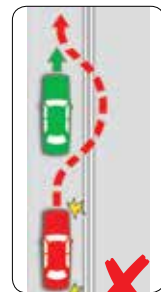
Example 4A: Crossing a single continuous dividing line to allow the required room to overtake a cyclist, if safe to do so, is **PERMITTED**.



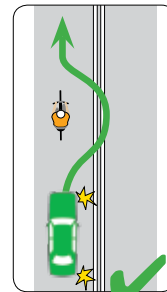
Example 5: Driving to the right of the centre of the road **NOT permitted** — overtaking on a road with a single continuous dividing line to the left of a broken dividing line is **NOT PERMITTED**.



Example 5A: Crossing a single continuous dividing line to the left of a broken dividing line to allow the required room to overtake a cyclist, if safe to do so, is **PERMITTED**.



Example 6: Driving to the right of the centre of the road **NOT permitted** — overtaking on a road with 2 parallel continuous dividing lines is **NOT PERMITTED**.



Example 6A: Crossing a double continuous dividing line to allow the required room to overtake a cyclist, if safe to do so, is **PERMITTED**.

Single continuous line (or single continuous line to the left of a broken line)

You must also keep to the left of these lines (Examples 4 and 5). You must not cross these lines to overtake or make a U-turn but you may cross them to:

- enter or leave the road,
- avoid an obstruction,
- park in angle parking on the opposite side of the road, or
- allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist (Examples 4A and 5A)

but only if you have a clear view of approaching traffic and can do so safely.

Two continuous parallel lines (Example 6)

You must keep to the left and must not cross these lines, unless you have to avoid an obstruction or, if safe to do so, allow enough room to safely overtake a cyclist (example 6A).

Avoiding an obstruction

You are permitted to cross single or double continuous lines in order to avoid an obstruction – this does not include a slower moving vehicle or a vehicle stopped in a line of traffic, but may include a fallen tree, a crashed vehicle, or a car that has broken down or is illegally parked. Before crossing the line, you must have a clear view of the road ahead and it must be safe. You must also be very sure you cross safely because the onus is on you to assess the danger when doing so.

Lanes

When driving on a road marked with lane lines, you must keep your vehicle entirely within a lane. It is an offence to **straddle** a lane line except when passing a cyclist to give them the required room.

Changing lanes

When changing from one lane to another you **must**:

- only change lanes when it is safe to do so
- give way to any vehicle travelling in the other lane in the same direction
- give a change of direction signal, giving sufficient warning to other road users before changing lanes.

If you need to change lanes in order to turn left or right, or for any other purpose, change lanes well in advance to give yourself ample opportunity to turn with safety. << *see Giving Way when Changing Lanes page 77* >>

Continuous lane lines

On a multi-lane road, you must not cross or drive on a continuous white lane line, except to avoid an obstruction, or to allow the required room to safely overtake a cyclist. This does not apply to the lines separating bus lanes or bicycle lanes, or the lines separating a road from a road-related area such as a parking bay.

Bus lanes

While the bus lane is in operation, you **must not**:

- park or stop a vehicle other than a bus in a bus lane
- drive in a bus lane, **except** when:
 - entering or leaving a road (e.g. another road, private property, parking area)
 - overtaking a vehicle turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of a road
 - avoiding an obstruction.



In each case the maximum distance you may drive in the bus lane is 100 metres.

Only a public bus or emergency vehicle can travel in a **Bus Only Lane**.

A **Bus Only Lane** means a marked lane, or part of a marked lane, the road surface of which is painted red and marked with the words 'Bus Only' in white letters.



A bus lane is a lane denoted by signs, which is set aside for the exclusive use of public buses, emergency vehicles, bicycle riders and taxi drivers during the times stated on the signs. If there are no times stated, it applies at all times.

Bicycle lanes

A bicycle lane is a lane indicated by a bicycle lane sign and lane line for the exclusive use of bicycle riders during the times stated on the signs. If there are no times stated, it applies at all times. Bicycle lanes may be coloured green where there is a greater potential for conflict between motor vehicles and bicycles.



While the bicycle lane is in operation, you must not:

- park or stop a vehicle in a bicycle lane
- drive a vehicle (including a motorcycle) in a bicycle lane, **except when:**
 - entering or leaving the road from private property, a parking area or another road
 - overtaking a vehicle turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of a road
 - avoiding an obstruction.

In each case the maximum distance you may drive in the bicycle lane is 50 metres providing you indicate and give way to cyclists.

Edge lines

You may only cross a continuous edge line including a line that separates where vehicles park when:

- turning at an intersection
- entering or leaving a road
- entering a part of a road of one kind from a part of a road of another kind, for example, moving into an emergency stopping lane
- overtaking a vehicle that is turning right
- driving a slow moving vehicle
- stopping at the side of the road
- driving a vehicle that is too wide or too long to drive without driving on or over the edge line
- The maximum distance you may drive across an edge line to enter or leave or overtake on the left of a vehicle intending to turn right is 100 metres.

Reversing

- You must not reverse unless it is safe to do so.
- You must not reverse any further than necessary.

When you reverse:

- always drive slowly and carefully
- always check in all directions before starting to reverse, particularly behind your vehicle. If necessary, get out and walk to the rear to ensure there is no obstruction or danger not visible from the driver's seat e.g. a child
- do not start reversing if there are pedestrians behind your vehicle or about to walk behind it. If necessary, sound your horn to warn pedestrians
- always look in the direction you are intending to reverse before beginning to move and continue looking in that direction while reversing, with occasional brief checks in all other directions. Use direct vision whenever possible – only use mirrors when direct vision is not possible.

Driving on footpaths

You must not drive on a footpath except to enter or leave, by the shortest practicable route, adjacent property or a road-related area. When crossing a road-related area to enter or leave a road you must give way to any vehicle on the road, any pedestrian on the road and any other vehicle ahead of the driver's vehicle or approaching from the left or right. Watch out for bicycle riders riding on footpaths.

Driving on a traffic island

You cannot drive on a traffic island or median.

Driving on a median strip

You must drive to the left of a median strip unless you are entering or leaving a median strip parking area or you are required to drive to the right of the median strip by a keep right sign.

Driving on a dividing strip

You must not drive on a dividing strip except:

- to allow the required room to safely overtake a cyclist
- to avoid an obstruction
- to enter or leave a road
- to enter an area in the dividing strip where parking is permitted

but only if it is safe to do so and you have a clear view of the road.

Driving on a painted island

You must not drive over a painted island however, if the island is surrounded by one continuous line you can drive on, or over it, for up to 50 metres in order to:

- allow the required room to safely overtake a cyclist
- enter or leave the road
- enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the island
- park in angle parking on the opposite side of the road.

However, you must give way to any vehicle that is in the turning lane or entering the turning lane from the marked lane or line of traffic immediately to the left of the turning lane.



Overtaking

Overtaking is when you approach from behind and pass a vehicle travelling in the same direction.

Most drivers and riders consider overtaking to be crossing to the 'wrong' side of the road to pass a vehicle in front. But, even if you do not cross to the 'wrong' side of the road, you are overtaking if you move into another lane or line of traffic either side of you to pass another vehicle.

Even if you do not cross over to the 'wrong' side, there are some important safety rules you must follow. The rules for overtaking on a multi-lane or unlaned road are similar to those for a single-lane road.

Remember, bicycle riders and motorcyclists are harder to see in traffic and do not have the same protection as drivers. Allow at least 1 metre clearance when overtaking bicycles, 1.5 metres when travelling over 60 km/h.

Before overtaking another vehicle, you must:

- be sure it is safe to do so
- on a single-lane road, be sure that the road ahead is clear for a sufficient distance
- be sure you have sufficient distance to return to the same lane or line of traffic without endangering the vehicle being overtaken or any vehicle coming from the opposite direction
- be sure no other vehicle is overtaking your vehicle by checking the road behind in your mirrors and blind spot
- signal your intention to overtake for long enough to give sufficient warning to all other road users.

When you overtake, you must:

- leave a safe gap between your vehicle and the vehicle you are overtaking
- **when overtaking cyclists, allow a minimum of 1 metre clearance, 1.5 metres if travelling faster than 60 km/h**
- not return to the lane or line of traffic until you are far enough past the other vehicle to avoid a collision
- not obstruct the other vehicle.

You must not overtake:

- on the right of a vehicle that is turning right, or making a U-turn from the centre of the road, and is signalling to turn right
- where there is a single continuous dividing line or a single continuous dividing line to the left of a broken dividing line (Example 4 and 5 – page 50), unless you can do so without any part of your vehicle crossing the line *
- where there is a double continuous dividing line (Example 6 – page 50) *

* Motor vehicles are allowed to cross centre dividing lines and straddle lanes in order to safely pass cyclists at the minimum distance but only if the driver has a clear view of any approaching traffic and it is safe to do so << see page 50 >>

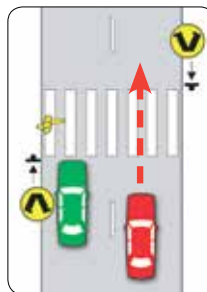
- on the approach to a children's or pedestrian crossing where another vehicle is stopping or has stopped to give way to pedestrians (Example 7 – page 55)
- to the side of a vehicle displaying a **Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle** sign if it is signalling and in the process of turning to that side
- if there is a sign saying **No Overtaking**
- approaching a crest, bend or dip in the road where there is not a clear view for a sufficient distance ahead to allow you to overtake with safety
- on the left, except:
 - if the vehicle is turning right or making a U-turn from the centre of the road, and is giving a right-turn signal
 - on a multi-lane road, when you are in another lane to the left of the vehicle you are overtaking and the vehicle can be safely overtaken in a marked lane to the left of the vehicle
- on any road where, owing to an intersection, overtaking cannot be completed safely.

Bicycle riders can overtake another vehicle on the left, but not if it is indicating and turning left.

Being overtaken

When driving a vehicle being overtaken by another vehicle, you must:

- keep to the left, if safe, to allow a reasonable space for the overtaking vehicle to pass or
- keep within your lane and
- not increase your speed until the other vehicle has completely overtaken your vehicle and returned to the lane or line of traffic.



Example 7:
Driver must not pass or overtake a vehicle that has stopped to give way to a pedestrian at a pedestrian crossing.





Overtaking trucks

Unsafe overtaking is something truck drivers see all too often and it causes many of the fatal car-truck crashes. People can become impatient behind trucks on hills or when there are few passing opportunities.

Some people take a very large risk for only a few seconds' gain.

So allow plenty of room, pass quickly but safely and pull back in, only when you can see both headlights of the truck in your rear view mirror. This allows a safe space, but don't then slow down in front of the truck.

Before attempting to overtake ask yourself the following:

- What will I achieve?
- What are the risks?
- Is it safe and is it legal?
- How far is it to the next overtaking lane?
- What length is the truck I am overtaking?
- How long will it take to overtake it?
- Can I see if there is oncoming traffic?
- Is there a bend or dip ahead of the truck that might be obscuring oncoming traffic?

Do not overtake a truck unless:

- You can see there is no oncoming traffic
- You can see there are no bends or dips ahead that may be obscuring oncoming traffic.
- You have enough clear distance ahead, without oncoming traffic, dips or bends to pass safely.

It is also important to avoid being pressured into overtaking by other following vehicles. Keep your cool and if necessary let them pass.

Take care when overtaking trucks. A driver of a car, travelling in a 110 km/h sign-posted speed limit zone, will take approximately 1 kilometre to safely overtake a 23 metre B-double truck that is travelling at 100km/h on a road with an overtaking lane.

On a two-way road with a 110km/h speed limit, you will need almost two kilometres of clear road ahead to safely overtake a 23 metre B-double vehicle that is travelling at 100 km/h as you will have to allow for an oncoming car also travelling at 110 km/h.

You should never overtake a heavy vehicle that is approaching a crossroad. Another vehicle, which is hidden by the truck, could enter the road from the left in front of the truck.

Following distance outside of built up areas for long vehicles

Except when overtaking, road trains must maintain at least 200 metres behind another long vehicle and if your vehicle is a long vehicle (7.5 metres or more, including any trailer or caravan and any overhanging load), you must keep at least 60 metres distance between your vehicle and any other long vehicle. This does not apply to roads in a built-up area or multi-lane roads.

SHARE THE ROAD

HEY! I NEED
AROUND 200m TO
STOP SAFELY!

I LEFT A
SPACE SO I CAN
STOP SAFELY.

**TAKE CARE WHEN
OVERTAKING AND
DON'T CUT IN FRONT OF TRUCKS**

Signs

There are two categories of road signs:

Regulatory	MUST BE OBEYED	Examples: Stop sign Speed limit
Warning	Provide warnings or advice about road conditions; you should follow their suggestions	Examples: Intersection ahead Lane markings change Suggested speed for a bend

Regulatory signs

Stop

When you are faced with a Stop sign, you must stop your vehicle at the stop line or, where there is no stop line, as near as practicable to but before entering the intersection. The rule about giving way at a Stop sign is described (Example 18 and 20 – page 73).

Give Way

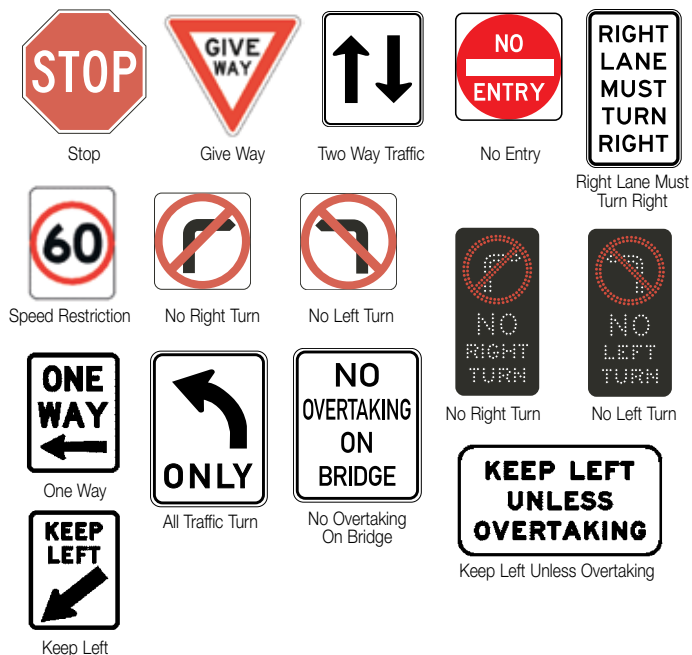
When you are faced with a Give Way sign, you must slow down and, if necessary, stop your vehicle in order to Give Way. The rule about giving way at a Give Way sign is described (Example 19 – page 73).

Speed Limit

Speed limit signs have a distinctive red circle with a black number indicating the speed limit in kilometres per hour. Different speed limits and where they apply are described. << see pages 46 to 48 >>

No Right/Left Turn

Normal or illuminated signs may indicate that either right or left turns are prohibited. These apply when the sign is illuminated, or during the time stated on the sign, or at all times if no time is shown.



Warning Signs

These signs warn you that you are approaching an unexpected, hazardous or unusual feature on the road ahead. They will help you to drive and ride with care – taking appropriate action when you see the signs will assist courtesy and safety on the roads.

Some warning signs on curves and bends have safe speed advice signs mounted below them to tell you the maximum safe speed at which the bend or group of bends can be negotiated under good driving conditions. Hazard marker signs also warn you of risks on the road.

Direction Signs

Direction signs inform you of distances and/or directions to towns and major roads. They also direct you to services such as emergency telephones, caravan parks, off-street parking and information bays.

Temporary Signs

Temporary signs are erected to warn you of road works or other temporary hazards on the road, such as loose stones, detours and closed lanes.

Some temporary signs are regulatory signs – for example, these tell you what speed you must travel when passing road works. Speed limits are described. << see pages 46 to 48 >>

Temporary Signs

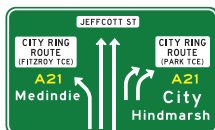


Road Workers ahead



Lane status – prepare to merge, left lane closed, right lanes open

Direction Sign



Warning Signs



Cross Road*



Cross Road



Pedestrian crossing on side road



Road Narrows



Curve (right)



Hairpin Bend



Pedestrians



Children



Narrow Bridge



Narrow Bridge*



End Divided Road



Steep Descent



Divided Road



Trucks (crossing or entering)



Slippery Surface



Bicycles crossing the road



Winding Road



Dip in Road



Water Crossing



Kangaroos Ahead



Road Hump



Crest



Side Road Junction Ahead*



Side Road Junction Ahead



T-intersection



Curve (right) advisory speed



Low Clearance

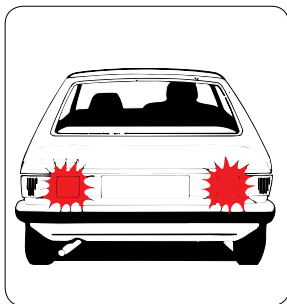
*These signs have been superseded and will be replaced over time.



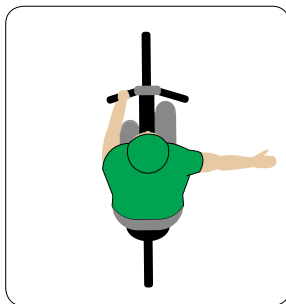
Indicator to turn left



Indicator to turn right



Braking



Cyclist turning right

*Cars are fitted with brake lights to indicate that you are slowing down or stopping, and direction indicators (blinking lights on each side of the car) that you **MUST** use to give a change of direction signal or make a turn.*

Driving Signals

You must always use your direction indicators (signalling device) to tell other road users what you intend to do. They cannot know your intentions unless you tell them by giving early and adequate signals.

It's also important to remember that **giving a signal does not mean that other road users must give way to you** or that you can automatically change direction without taking care and giving way.

In every case, you must give sufficient warning of your intention to alter direction to allow other drivers, motorcycle riders, bicycle riders and pedestrians to act on your signal.

In the case of leaving a stationary position at the side of the road, you must signal for at least five seconds to allow sufficient warning to be given to other road users, especially bicycle riders.

You must signal your intention with your direction indicators to:

- move to the left or right
- turn left or right. This includes leaving the continuing road at a modified T-intersection when you intend to go straight ahead (Example 8 and 9 – page 61)
- change from one lane to another or diverging
- pull into or out from a kerb or side of the road
- make a U-turn or 3-point turn
- leave a roundabout (if practicable).

[Direction indicators are illustrated in the diagrams in this booklet by yellow starbursts.]

You must stop giving the change of direction signal as soon as you complete the change of direction.

You must signal your intention, by means of your vehicle's brake lights to:

- stop your vehicle or
- suddenly slow your vehicle.

If a vehicle's direction indicators or brake lights are not in working order, or the vehicle is not fitted with indicators or brake lights, you must give a hand signal to turn right, stop or slow down suddenly (as illustrated).

Bicycle riders are only required to give a hand signal when turning or diverging to the right, except when making a hook turn.

<< see page 95 >>

Turning

Before making a turn, you must follow this sequence (see ***The Driving Companion*** for more information):

- decide on the direction you want to go as early as possible
- look ahead, behind and to each side for other vehicles and road users, including motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians, to make sure it is safe to turn
- signal as early as possible – certainly before beginning to slow down and start your turn – to give other road users sufficient warning of your intention
- take up the correct position on the road (see next page) before you reach the intersection
- make your turn, when safe.



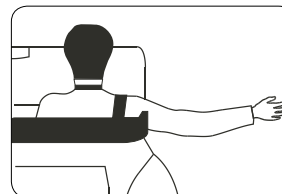
Example 8:

Driver indicating change of direction at a modified T-intersection where the continuing road curves to the right and the driver is proceeding straight ahead on to the terminating road.

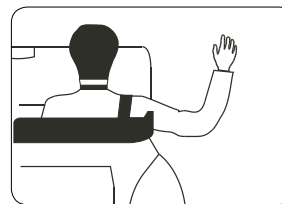


Example 9:

Driver indicating change of direction at a modified T-intersection where the continuing road curves to the left and the driver is proceeding straight ahead on to the terminating road.



Giving a hand signal for changing direction to the right



Giving a hand signal for stopping or suddenly slowing

The correct position

On a single-lane or unlaned road:

- turning left – you must start from as near as practicable to the far left side of the road
- turning right – you must approach the intersection to the left of, as near as practicable to and parallel to the dividing line, median strip or the centre of the road
- when turning right, you should pass as near as practicable and to the right of the centre point of the intersection. You will risk a collision if you cut across the lane of the vehicles coming from the right – start your turn when you are close to the centre of the intersection (Example 10)
- in a one-way road, you must turn right from as near as practicable to the far right side of the road.

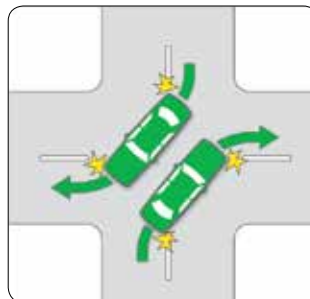
The correct position

On a multi-lane road:

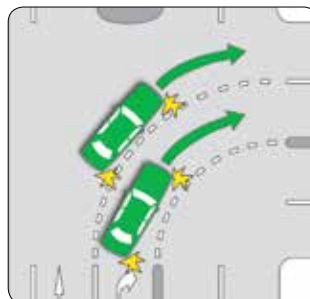
Approach the intersection from the correct lane – you can only turn left from the left lane and right from the right lane. You can only turn from any other lane if it has turning arrows indicating the direction you intend to take. When approaching an intersection and there is a continuous white line separating lanes, you cannot change lanes across this line.

If you enter an intersection:

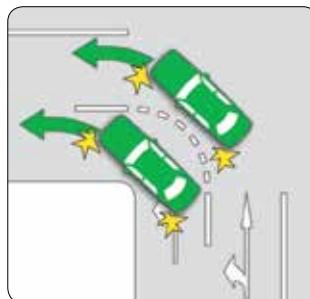
- you must turn only in the direction of the arrow or arrows in your lane



Example 10:
Making a right turn from a road with no road marking indicating how to make the turn.



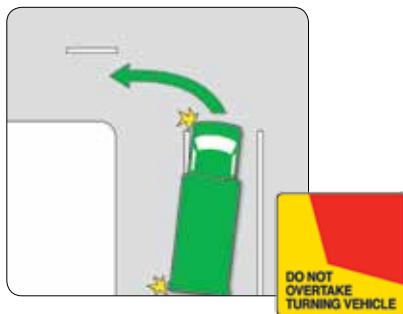
Example 11:
Drivers turning right as required by road markings.



Example 12:
Drivers turning left as required by road markings.

- if there are arrows in your lane offering a choice of directions, you may go in either of the directions indicated
- if there are two turning lanes, you must obey any road markings indicating which lane of the new road you must enter (indicated by broken white continuity lines in the intersection) (Examples 11 and 12 – page 62)
- if there are no markings and you are turning right into a multi-lane road, it is safest to turn into the lane on the new road closest to the middle of that road
- when turning right, you should pass as near as you can to the right of the centre point of the intersection. Do not cut across the corner as you will risk a collision with a vehicle that is coming from the right – start your turn when you are close to the centre of the intersection (Example 10 – page 62)
- if you are driving a vehicle with a Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle sign and you are within 50 metres of the intersection, you may use either or both lanes if necessary to turn left or right if it is safe to do so (Example 13).

Example 13
Driver with a do not overtake turning vehicle sign using both lanes to turn left when safe to do so.



When turning from any two-way road, you must not stop your vehicle in a position that could obstruct traffic coming from the opposite direction. It is against the law to enter an intersection if you cannot drive through and into the road you plan to enter. However, when turning right, you can proceed into the intersection and wait near the centre of the intersection for the oncoming traffic to pass (as long as it is safe and the road you are turning into is clear).

The correct position

Turning, but not at an intersection:

When turning in order to enter or leave the road you must obey the same rules as when turning at intersections.

<< see *When to Give Way* pages 72 to 78 >>

U-turns

A U-turn is a turn made *within* a road to take you to the other side, facing the opposite direction, in one turn. There are several restrictions on where you can make a U-turn.

At intersections on any road with a dividing line or median strip, you must start a U-turn from the lane immediately to the left of the middle of the road or dividing strip (Example 14 – page 64).

At any other intersection you may start your turn from any position on the road (left of the middle), except from a bike lane or bus lane, providing it is safe to do so.

When making a U-turn you must give way to all other traffic and pedestrians and not unreasonably obstruct traffic approaching from the front or behind. (Example 14a – page 64).

You must not begin a U-turn unless:

- you have a clear view for a sufficient distance of any approaching traffic
- you can safely make the U-turn without unreasonably obstructing the free movement of traffic.

You must not make a U-turn:

- where there is a No U-turn sign at an intersection or a break in the dividing strip or median strip
- where there is a No U-turn sign at any other place that applies until the next intersection or the end of the road
- at an intersection where there are traffic lights (unless a u-turn permitted sign is displayed)
- across a single continuous dividing line, dividing strip or painted island
- across a double continuous dividing line or dividing strip
- on a one-way road

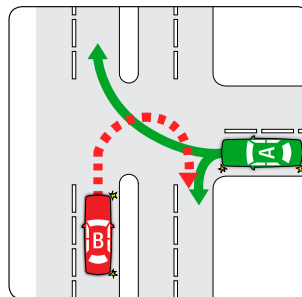
3-point turns

The rules for U-turns also apply to 3-point turns.

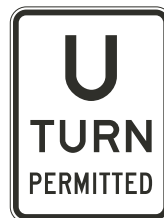
- You may do a 3-point turn by using the forward and reverse gears when the road is not wide enough to complete a U-turn.
- You may only do a 3-point turn if it is safe to do so and allowed by the road rules, and you must always take care not to obstruct other road users.
- Check the road carefully before starting a 3-point turn and, if the traffic is heavy, it is better to avoid a 3-point turn by driving around the block.



Example 14
Starting a U-turn on a road with a median strip.



Example 14a
Driver B must give way. When making a U-turn you must give way to all other traffic and pedestrians.



U-turn permitted sign



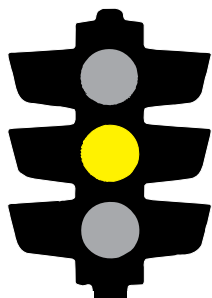
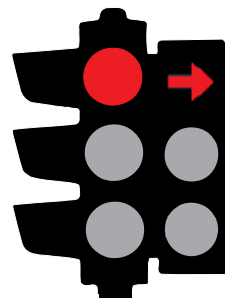
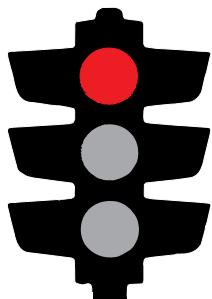
No U-turn sign

Traffic Lights

Traffic lights are installed to regulate traffic flow and make driving safe. Always approach them at a safe speed in case the signal changes before you reach the intersection.

The colour of the traffic light that faces you as you approach an intersection determines the action you must take.

If the traffic lights are not operating, obey the Give Way to the Right rule or the Give Way at a T-intersection rule, whichever is applicable.
<< see pages 74 to 77 >>



Red Light

You must not enter the intersection. If a white line is painted on the road, you must stop your vehicle behind that line and as near as practicable to it.

<< see *Left Turn on Red Permitted after Stopping* page 66 >>

Red Arrow

You must not enter the intersection if you intend to turn in the direction of the arrow. You must stop at the stop line. If the red arrow goes out, leaving only a green light, you may proceed if it is safe to do so, giving way to on-coming traffic (if turning right) and pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

Yellow Light

This indicates that the lights are about to change to red. You must not enter the intersection unless you are so close to the stop line that you are unable to stop safely without entering the intersection or risking a rear-end crash with vehicles following you.

Yellow Arrow

This indicates that the lights are about to change to red. If you intend to turn in the direction of the arrow, you must prepare to stop and not enter the intersection beyond the stop line unless you are unable to stop your vehicle safely. You may proceed if the yellow arrow goes out leaving only a green light and if it is safe to do so, but beware of oncoming vehicles.

Green Light

You may proceed through the intersection or turn right or left, if it is safe to do so, unless:

- a sign or signal such as **No Right Turn** or **No Entry** prohibits that movement or
- the intersection or the road beyond the intersection is blocked.

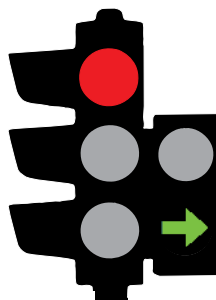
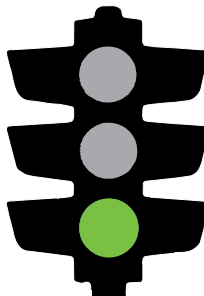
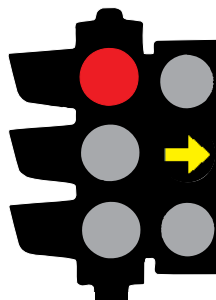
If turning right, enter beyond the stop line and proceed as far as possible without impeding oncoming vehicles. Wait within the intersection until it is safe to complete the turn.

You must also give way to:

- other vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection after the last light change, including turning traffic
- pedestrians, if you are turning to the right or left
- vehicles from the opposite direction, if you are turning right.

Green Arrow

A green arrow, either alone or with any other lights, means you may proceed in the direction of the arrow if safe to do so.

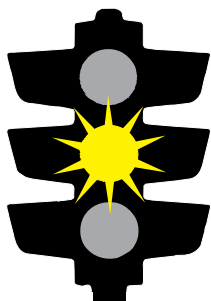


Left Turn on Red Permitted after Stopping

This is allowed only where there is a sign stating **Left Turn on Red Permitted After Stopping**. If there is such a sign, you can turn left before the traffic lights change to green – but only after stopping at the stop line and making sure it is safe to do so and giving way to all other vehicles and pedestrians.



Left Turn on Red
Permitted after Stopping



Flashing Yellow Circle

Flashing Yellow Light or Arrow

You may proceed with caution – obeying the Give Way rules for intersections not controlled by signs. << see pages 74-77 >>

White 'T' or 'B' light

Indicates to a tram driver (T-light), or a bus driver (B-light), that the driver may proceed.

Red/Green Bicycle crossing lights with symbols

Indicate to bicycle riders whether they may proceed or must stop and wait.



Red Bicycle crossing light



Green Bicycle crossing light

U-turns

You must not make a U-turn at an intersection with traffic lights unless there is a U-turn Permitted sign. For information on U-turns. << see pages 63 to 64 and 76 >>

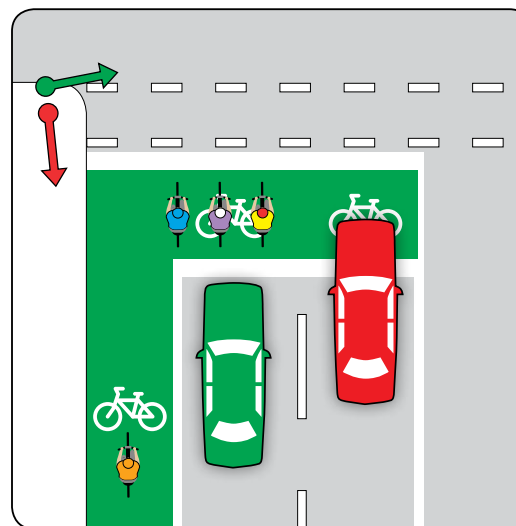
Red Light Cameras

Some intersections are equipped with cameras to photograph vehicles whose drivers commit an offence by crossing against the red light. Warning signs may appear before these intersections, but they are merely advisory. **The absence of such signs does not prevent the operation of the red light camera or prosecution for disobeying the red light.**

Vehicles and bicycle storage areas (bike box)

A bicycle storage area (bike box) is an area of a road before an intersection with traffic lights that has one or more bicycle symbols painted on it and that is between two parallel stop lines and opens out from a bicycle lane. The area may be painted green.

If there is a bicycle storage area before traffic lights that are showing a red light or red arrow the driver of a motor vehicle must not allow any part of the vehicle to enter the bicycle storage area.



A motor vehicle must not enter a bike storage area if the traffic lights are red.



Pedestrian Crossing

Crossings

Crossings for Pedestrians

Crossing for pedestrians are indicated by road markings, signs or lights where people may cross the road safely. It is the driver's responsibility to give way at all forms of crossings. It is an offence to overtake another vehicle that is stopping or has stopped at a crossing for the purposes of giving way to pedestrians using the crossing.

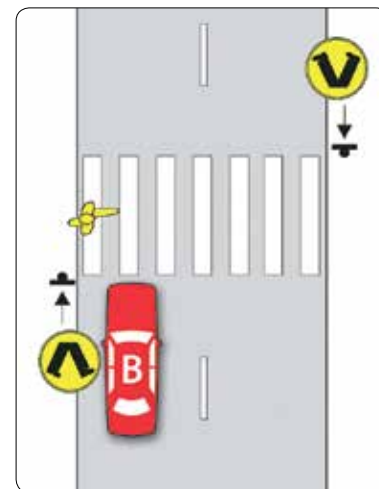
Crossings for pedestrians come in various forms including:

Marked foot crossings

Marked foot crossings have two parallel broken white lines indicating where pedestrians must cross with pedestrian lights facing pedestrians and traffic lights facing drivers. These crossings are located at intersections with signals and may also be located between intersections. Pedestrian push buttons are provided at these crossings to activate the red traffic light to stop road traffic allowing pedestrians to cross safely. Lights with a green or red pedestrian symbol are displayed for pedestrians, and may be accompanied by a signal counting down the time until the red pedestrian symbol is displayed.

Example 15

Driver must give way to a pedestrian at a children's crossing or pedestrian crossing.



Pedestrian crossings

Pedestrian crossings have white parallel stripes across the road with pedestrian crossing signs as shown in example 15, and may include two yellow alternating flashing lights. They are also known as zebra crossings.

Wombat crossings

When a pedestrian crossing is placed on a raised section of road they are known as Wombat crossings and are usually accompanied by a 40km/h speed limit.

You must give way to any pedestrian on a pedestrian crossing.



Wombat crossing

Children's Crossings

There are two types of crossing designed especially for the safety of children:

- **'emu' crossings** – have red and white posts and operate only when the CHILDREN CROSSING flags are displayed
Emu crossings are placed within School Zones and a speed limit of 25km/h applies 'when children are present'
<< see *School Zones* page 47 >>



Emu crossing

- **'koala' crossings** – have red and white posts at the edge of the road and two yellow alternating flashing lights.
As indicated by a sign, a speed limit of 25 km/h applies when the lights are flashing.



Koala crossing

Drivers have a responsibility to take extra care at these locations. Children's crossings have been designed for the protection of school children and adults, and operate (i.e. the flags are displayed or the lights are flashing) usually during the times that children are expected to cross the road.

When approaching a pedestrian or children's crossing, you must drive at a speed so you can stop your vehicle safely before the crossing.

If a school crossing monitor displays a STOP sign, you must stop your vehicle at the stop line. You may proceed only when the sign is no longer displayed towards you.

Remember that children do not always have good road safety sense and can also be easily distracted – You need to be more cautious when they are near a road than you might be with adults.

- You must stop when any pedestrian is on, or entering, a children's crossing.
- You must not proceed while a pedestrian is on, or entering, the crossing.

<< see page 72 >>

Wait for the train because it won't wait for you.



Know when to cross the line



If you go through a crossing without even realising it, take shortcuts across the tracks, or are busier watching text messages than looking out for trains, it could be hit or miss.

Know when to cross the line. dpti.sa.gov.au/roadsafety



Government of South Australia
Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

Level Crossings

A level crossing is where the road crosses a railway or tramway line and is indicated by one of the signs shown. You must not enter the crossing:

- if there is danger of a collision with a train or tram
- if any train or tram is on, entering or approaching the crossing
- when flashing or rotating red lights, or warning bells, are operating
- when the crossing is closed by gates or boom barriers.

Take particular care where there are multiple tracks. There may be trains or trams approaching from either direction.

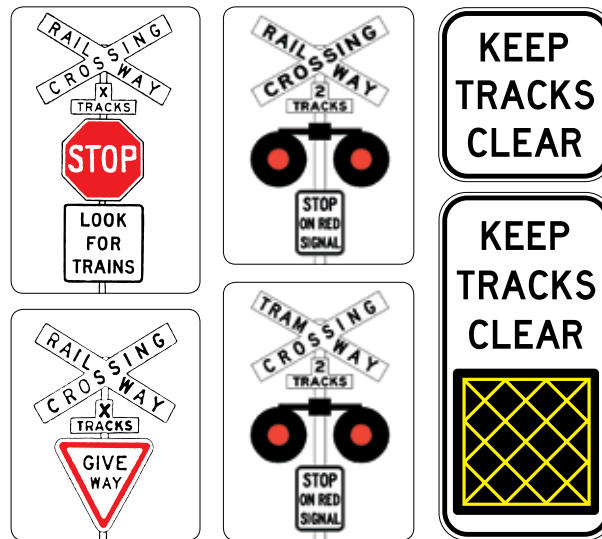
Do not attempt to cross the line(s) unless there is a clear passage through the crossing and you can drive completely clear off the crossing.

At some crossings there may be a Keep Tracks Clear sign erected to remind motorists not to stop on a level crossing. It may also identify that yellow box markings have been painted on the road pavement to enable easy identification of the level crossing area.

If a Stop sign is erected (with or without warning devices), you must stop your vehicle at or as near as practicable to the Stop sign or Stop line and give way to any train or tram on, entering or approaching the crossing.

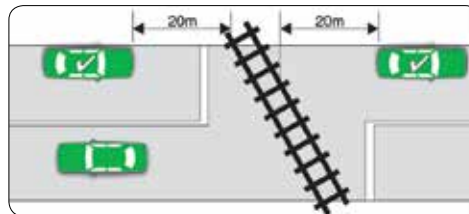
If a Give Way sign is erected (with or without warning devices), you *must* slow down and be prepared to stop and give way to any train or tram on entering or approaching the crossing.

Obey the signs and signals, look for trains, and never enter a crossing unless you can safely clear the tracks without stopping. Always assume a train is approaching.



Parking

You **must not park** your vehicle so that the nearest part is closer than 20 metres before any of the rails or tracks, or 20 metres after any of the rails or tracks (Example 16).



Example 16 Measurement of distance — level crossing

Giving way

Pages 72 to 78 go through the give way rules.

In all the examples **red vehicle B gives way**.

What is 'Giving way'?

To give way to another vehicle or a pedestrian, means:

- if that vehicle or pedestrian is stopped – you must remain stationary until it is safe to proceed
- in any other case – slow down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

Most rules about giving way are based on the concept of allowing the vehicle on your right to go ahead of you. However, if you are ever in any doubt, always give way to the other person or vehicle.

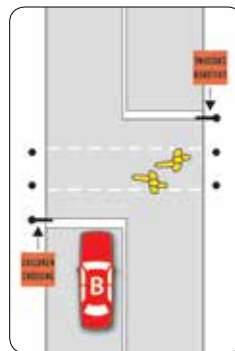
Giving way at Pedestrian Crossings and Children's Crossings

At a pedestrian crossing, you must:

- Give way to any pedestrian on the crossing.

At a children's crossing (Example 17), you must:

- stop, remain stationary and give way to any pedestrian (child or adult) who is on or entering the crossing
- if there is a dividing strip, remain stationary and give way if the pedestrian is on your side of the dividing strip.



Example 17

Driver stopped at Stop line for pedestrians on a children's 'emu' crossing with poles and flags.



Give way to buses sign

At both types of crossing, you must:

- drive at a speed that will enable you to stop if necessary
- not overtake a vehicle that is slowing or that has stopped in order to give way to pedestrians (Example 15 – page 68).

<< see also crossings on pages 68 to 69 >>

Giving way to trains and trams

You must give way to all trains or trams on or approaching from any direction at level crossings. You must stop and give way to pedestrians between the edge of the road and a stationary tram.

<< see page 106 >>

Giving way to buses

When in a built-up area, you must give way to any bus displaying the give way to buses sign if the bus is indicating to move out from the kerb.

On a multi-lane road, this only applies to the left lane. If the left lane is a bike lane or is obstructed (e.g. a parked car), drivers in the lane next to the left lane must also give way.

The bus driver must exercise due care and only move out if it is safe.

Giving way at Stop and Give Way signs

At an intersection, if you are facing a Stop sign/line or a Give Way sign/line, you must give way to a vehicle coming from any other direction (Examples 18 and 19) **except**:

- if going straight ahead, to an oncoming vehicle turning right if a Stop sign/line or Give Way sign/line applies to the other vehicle
- to a vehicle turning left using a slip lane (Example 20)
- to a vehicle making a U-turn.

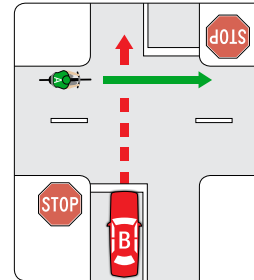
If turning left or right at the intersection, you must also give way to any pedestrian crossing the road you are entering. (Example 23 – page 74).

If you are proceeding straight ahead and a pedestrian is intending to cross the road, you must drive with due care and attention and, if necessary, take action to avoid a collision.

You must also give way to any vehicle or pedestrian at or near a Stop sign/line or give way sign/line at any other place.

Stop signs and Give Way signs are described in more detail under Road Signs. << [see page 58](#) >>

Importantly, if you are approaching a Give Way sign/line, and there is no danger of colliding with another vehicle or a pedestrian crossing the road, you do not have to stop at the Give Way sign/line before proceeding but you must slow down and prepare to stop if this becomes necessary.



Example 18

Driver B is stopping and giving way at a Stop sign to a bicycle coming from the left.



Example 19

Driver B is giving way at a Give Way sign to a vehicle coming from the left.

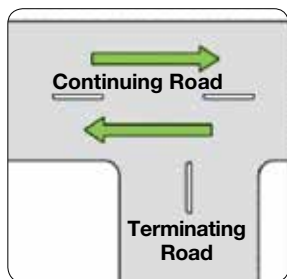


Example 20

Driver B is turning left using a slip lane and giving way to a vehicle (A) that is turning right into the road the driver is entering. Driver B is also required to give way to any pedestrian crossing the slip lane.

Example 21

At T-intersection where the terminating road is the 'stem' of the T.



Example 22

A modified T-intersection where the terminating road is marked by a sign or lines on the road and is not the 'stem' of the T.



Example 23

Driver B is turning left from the terminating road and giving way to a pedestrian on the continuing road.



Giving way when turning left from a Slip Lane

You must give way to any pedestrian on the slip lane and to any vehicle approaching from your right including an oncoming vehicle that has turned right at the intersection (Example 20 – page 73).

A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning left that is separated at some point by a painted island or traffic island.

Giving way at T-intersections

A T-intersection is where two roads meet; one that continues and one that terminates. At most intersections, one road will physically terminate and it is important to understand which is the 'terminating' road and which is the 'continuing' road:

- if there are no road markings or signs indicating otherwise, the terminating road is the 'stem' of the 'T' (Example 21)
- when there are road markings or signs indicating otherwise, the terminating road can be either of the roads that meet at the T-intersection. This is a modified T-intersection (Example 22).

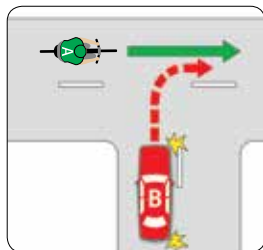
If you are on the terminating road, you must give way to all vehicles approaching from either direction on the continuing road and to any pedestrian at, near or crossing a continuing road.

Examples 23 and 24 – pages 74 and 75, show a vehicle give way when approaching the intersection where the terminating road is the 'stem' of the 'T' and there are no traffic lights, road markings or signs.

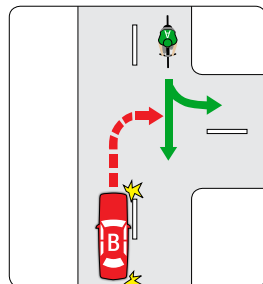
Examples 25 and 26 – page 75, show that when turning right from the continuing road, you must also give way to any approaching traffic including any vehicle turning left into the terminating road.

You must also give way to any pedestrian crossing the road you are entering.

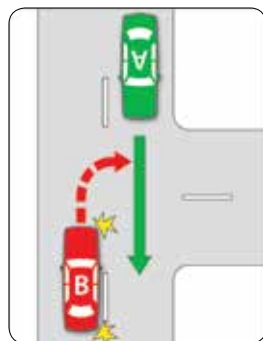
Example 24
Driver B is turning right from the terminating road giving way to a cyclist on the continuing road.



Example 25
Driver B is turning right from the continuing road and giving way to an oncoming bicycle turning left from the continuing road or going straight on.



Example 26
Driver B is turning right from the continuing road and giving way to an oncoming vehicle travelling through the intersection on the continuing road.



Giving way at Y-intersections

At a Y-intersection, you should give way to the right unless there are signs and road markings indicating otherwise.

Giving way to oncoming traffic when turning right

Before starting to turn right, you must give way to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction to you, including vehicles turning left (Examples 28 and 29 – page 76), but not if they are turning left from a slip lane (Example 20 – page 73). If you are driving on a continuing road at a modified T-intersection and intend to turn into the terminating road, you are ‘turning right’ and you must give way (Example 27 – page 76) to oncoming traffic on the continuing road. You must also give a right turn signal.

Giving way to pedestrians when turning

If you are turning at an intersection, you must give way to any pedestrian who is crossing the road you are turning into (Examples 30 and 31 – page 76). You must also give way to a pedestrian who is crossing a slip lane if you are turning left at the slip lane.

Giving way when leaving a parking space

When leaving a parking space at the edge of the road or moving off from the kerb, you must give way to any vehicles, including motorcycles and bicycles, travelling along the road. You must also give a change of direction signal for at least five seconds to warn other road users.

Example 27 shows a driver wishing to enter a terminating road from a continuing road at a modified T-intersection. Even if the road is straight ahead, you must signal and give way to all other road users on the continuing road. Vehicle A is on the continuing road at all times. Vehicle B is leaving the continuing road to enter the terminating road. Vehicle B must give way to vehicle A because it is turning across the path of an oncoming vehicle.

Giving way when doing a U-turn

You must give way to **all** vehicles and pedestrians when doing a U-turn and a 3-point turn.

<< see pages 63 and 64 >>

Giving way when turning or doing a U-turn at a break in a median strip

You must give way to any vehicles on the roadway of a divided road you are entering through a break in a median strip (Example 36 – page 77). The median strip might be a narrow grassed strip or wide enough to require a short ‘crossover’ road (Example 37 – page 77).

You must also give way to any oncoming vehicle already in the break in the median strip that is waiting to turn.

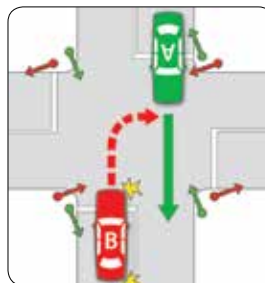
Example 27

At this modified T-intersection, the driver of Vehicle B is leaving the continuing road to proceed straight ahead on the terminating road. Driver B gives way to Vehicle A travelling through the intersection on the continuing road.



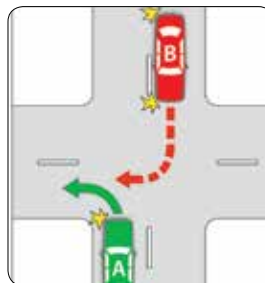
Example 28

Driver B turning right and giving way to an oncoming vehicle that is going straight ahead on the road the driver is leaving.



Example 29

Driver B is turning right giving way to an oncoming vehicle (A) that is turning left into the road the driver is entering.



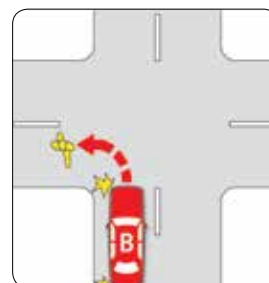
Example 30

Driver B is turning right and giving way to a pedestrian on the road the driver is entering.



Example 31

Driver B is turning left and giving way to a pedestrian on the road the driver is entering.



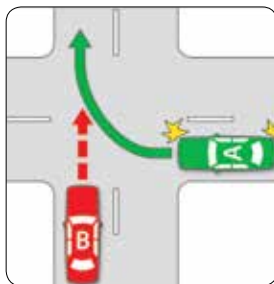
Example 32

Driver B is going straight ahead giving way to a vehicle (A) on the right that is going straight ahead.



**Example 33**

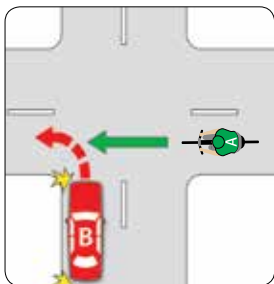
Driver B is going straight ahead and giving way to a vehicle on the right that is turning right.

**Example 35**

Driver B is turning right and giving way to a vehicle (A) on the right that is turning right into the road the driver is leaving.

**Example 34**

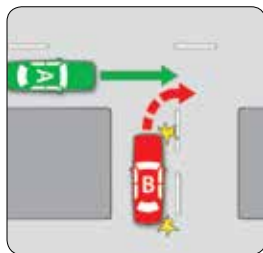
Driver B is turning left and giving way to a cyclist on the right that is going straight ahead.

**Example 36**

Driver B gives way when turning at a break in a median strip.

**Example 37**

Driver B gives way when turning at a break in median strip through a crossover road.



Giving way to the right at intersections without lights, signs or road markings

You must give way to any vehicle, including bicycles, approaching from the right at an intersection not controlled by signs or traffic signals and that is not a T-intersection. This is known as the 'Give Way to the Right' rule (Examples 32, 33, 34 and 35 – pages 76 and 77).

Giving way when lines of traffic merge

If you are on a road where the traffic is merging from two lines to one line, you must give way to a vehicle on your left or right if any part of that vehicle is ahead of your vehicle. This is called the Zip Merge (Example 38 – page 78).

The Zip Merge does not apply where lane lines are marked between the vehicles and one lane is ending (Example 39 – page 78) such as at the end of overtaking lanes and when entering the freeway.

Giving way when changing lanes

If you are driving on a multi-lane road and want to move into another lane of traffic, either to your right or left, you must first check that it is safe to change lanes, give a change of direction signal clearly for long enough to warn other road users, and give way to traffic in the other lane (Examples 39 and 40 – page 78). This also applies to bike lanes and where the road is wide enough for two lines of traffic but there are no lanes marked on the road (Example 41 – page 78).

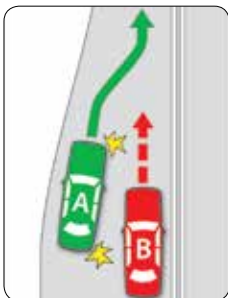
At intersections without traffic lights, road signs or road markings, that are not T-intersections, you must give way to any vehicle approaching from your right. This is known as the 'Give Way to the Right' rule.

This is highlighted in examples 32, 33, 34 and 35 on pages 76 and 77.

It doesn't matter if one vehicle is turning and the other going straight ahead, at an intersection not controlled by signs or traffic signals, that is not a T-intersection, you must **give way to the right**.

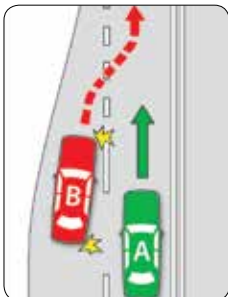
Example 38

Driver B gives way when lines of traffic merge into a single line of traffic.



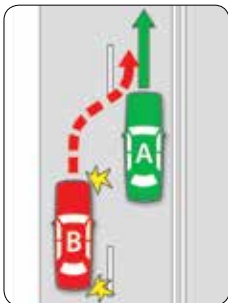
Example 39

Driver B gives way when a marked lane is ending and two lanes of traffic merge into a single lane of traffic.



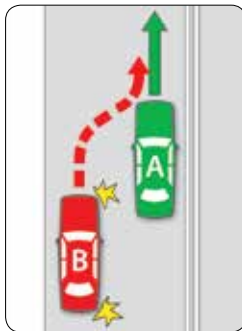
Example 40

Driver B gives way when moving from one marked lane to another marked lane.



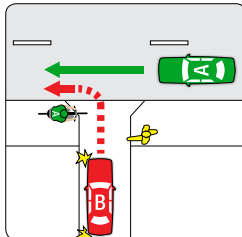
Example 41

If a driver diverges to the left or right within a marked lane, the driver must give way to any vehicle that is in the lane.



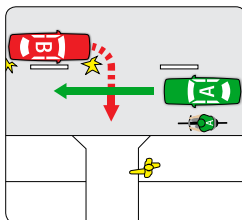
Example 42

Driver B entering a road from a road-related area and giving way to a pedestrian and a bicycle rider on the footpath and a vehicle on the road.



Example 43

Driver B turning right from a road into a road-related area and giving way to an oncoming vehicle and bicycle and to a pedestrian on the footpath.



Giving way when entering or leaving a road-related area

When driving into or out of a road-related area (such as a driveway or car park – see Glossary) or adjacent land, you must give way to all vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians on the road, footpath or road-related area (Examples 42 and 43).

Giving way to emergency vehicles

You must give way to a police or emergency vehicle with a warning siren sounding or displaying red and/or blue flashing lights to ensure that it is provided with a clear and uninterrupted passage.

Giving way at roundabouts

You must give way to any vehicles already on the roundabout. Remember to look out for bicycles at roundabouts. How to drive through single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts is described in more detail in the following section.



A roundabout is an intersection with an island at its centre. When in a roundabout, you must always keep to the left of the centre island. Roundabouts will be marked with a Roundabout sign (above) and can either be single-lane or multi-lane roundabouts.

Approaching and entering a roundabout

When approaching a single-lane roundabout, you must decide which exit you want to leave by:

- if you intend to turn left (leave before you are half way round), you must give a change of direction signal to your left as you approach
- if you intend to turn right (leave after half way round), you must give a change of direction signal to your right as you approach
- if you intend to go straight on, you do not need to give a change of direction signal as you approach.

When approaching a multi-lane roundabout, you must:

- decide which exit you want to leave by
- position your vehicle in the correct lane before you reach the roundabout
- signal (left or right) if you intend turning at the roundabout.

On a multi-lane roundabout, lane arrows and signs will tell you which lane to use, depending on where you want to exit the roundabout.

As a general rule, if you want to take the first exit on the left, you must choose the left lane (Example 44 – page 80). If you want to go straight on, you can use either lane (Example 45 – page 80), and if you want to turn right – leaving from the third or any subsequent exits you must choose the right-hand lane (Examples 46 and 47 – page 80), always remembering to give a change of direction signal.

You must also choose the right-hand lane if you want to go all the way round and return the way you came.

You must give way to vehicles already in the roundabout. You should also take particular care of vehicles approaching or about to enter from your right because they may enter the roundabout before you.

In a roundabout

At all times, you should signal with your indicators to let other drivers know your intentions. Immediately before leaving the roundabout (i.e. when passing the exit before your exit) you must signal with your left indicator, unless it is impracticable to do so. For example, the roundabout may be too small to allow your indicator to operate. This tells drivers waiting to enter the roundabout where you intend to exit.

Bicycle riders are permitted to turn right from the far left lane on a multi-lane roundabout provided they give way to any vehicle exiting the roundabout. Drivers must remember to look out for those cyclists stopped in the left lane who are giving way to exiting vehicles << see page 94 >>

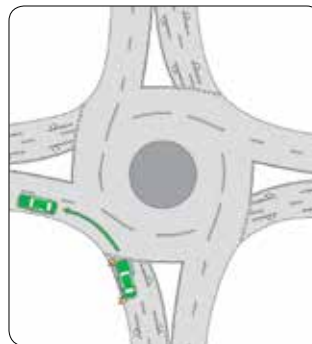
Example 44 – if you're turning left, approach in the left lane and give a change of direction signal to the left. Stay in the left lane and turn left.

Example 45 – if you're going straight ahead, use either lane (unless the arrows indicate otherwise). You do not need to give a change of direction signal when approaching or entering the roundabout but should give a change of direction signal to the left, if practicable, immediately before you reach your exit and leave the roundabout.

Example 46 – Turn right as follows:

- approach in the right lane
- give a change of direction signal early to go right
- if safe, enter the right lane of the roundabout
- keep in the right lane around the roundabout
- when passing the road before your exit road, give a change of direction signal to the left
- leave by the right lane of your exit road and
- cancel the left signal.

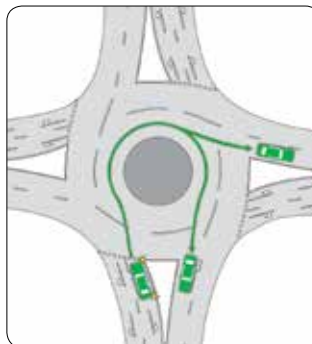
Example 47 – at a roundabout with five or more entry points you must obey the lane arrows and signs.



Example 44
Going left



Example 45
Going straight ahead



Example 46
Going right or all the way round



Example 47
Roundabout with five entry points

Freeways and Expressways

There are a number of freeways (also known as expressways) in South Australia. They are designed to move large numbers of vehicles at higher speeds than on normal roads. Access is controlled and the driver never comes into contact with opposing flows of traffic, unless traffic has been diverted during major road works. All roads that cross a freeway/expressway pass either over or under it by means of bridges.

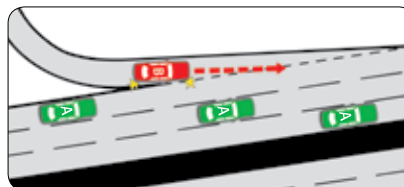
Joining a freeway or expressway from an entry road:

- as you enter the entry road, give a change of direction signal early
- wait well back in the entry road until you see a safe gap in the freeway/expressway traffic
- take care that traffic in front of you has cleared the entry road
- when safe, accelerate along the entry road to merge with the freeway/expressway traffic at the same speed
- on entering the freeway/expressway, keep a safe following distance for the higher speed.

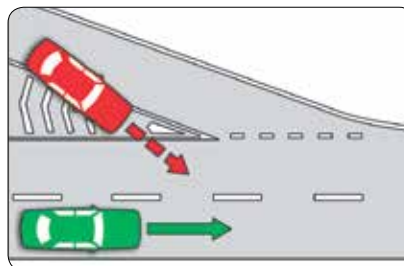
Leaving a freeway or expressway

If you are not going to the end of the freeway or expressway, you will leave by an exit road:

- watch for signs warning you that the exit is near
- move into the appropriate lane in good time
- give a signal as early as you can
- keep indicating when you join the exit road and then reduce speed in the exit road
- take care – when you have been driving for a while at a steady fast speed, it is hard to judge slower speeds - 80 km/h may seem like 60 km/h. Check your speedometer.



Enter freeway/expressway when the safe gap appears and at the same speed as the other freeway/expressway traffic.



Driving across a painted island where roads merge - not permitted.



When leaving the freeway/expressway give a change of direction signal to diverge left and take up position in the left hand lane. Leave left indicator on until you turn into exit ramp.

NOT PERMITTED ON FREEWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS

You must not:

- make U-turns
- reverse
- park or stop other than in emergencies.

Generally pedestrians, bicycles, animals and animal-drawn vehicles are prohibited from using freeways and expressways unless otherwise indicated.

On a freeway or expressway

- The right lane must be kept for overtaking unless the road is congested, and you must move out of it when you can.
- Do not move out to overtake without first checking your rear-view and side mirrors and signalling your intention.
- When changing lanes, give way to vehicles in other lanes.
- Look over your shoulder to check your blind spot (which is not covered by your mirrors) as a final check before changing lanes.
- Take care – traffic coming from behind may be moving faster than you think.
- Maintain a safe distance from other vehicles at all times, but especially when overtaking.
- Watch for other vehicles merging at entry roads and adjust your speed if necessary. To help other vehicles enter the freeway/expressway, change lanes if it is safe.

Vehicle breakdown

If your vehicle develops a problem you should try and leave the freeway or expressway at the next exit or pull into a service area.

If you cannot do so pull on to the hard shoulder and stop as far to the left as you can with your wheels turned to the left. If possible try to stop near an emergency telephone. Leave the vehicle by the left-hand door and instruct your passengers to do the same.

Do not put yourself in danger by attempting even simple repairs.

You and any passengers should stay well away from the roadway and hard shoulder. Children should be closely supervised and controlled for their safety.

Walk to an emergency telephone on your side of the freeway or expressway, staying well away from the roadway. The telephone is free of charge and connects directly to the Traffic Management Centre.

Use these in preference to a mobile phone as the Traffic Management Centre can inform the police and monitor the situation if necessary.

Always face the traffic when you speak on the phone. Give full details to the Traffic Management Centre; also inform them if you are a vulnerable motorist such as a person with a disability, older or travelling alone.

Return and wait near your vehicle, standing well away from the roadway and the hard shoulder.

Please note, 75% of breakdowns on freeways or expressways are due to the vehicle running out of petrol, so make sure you have sufficient fuel for your trip.

Obstruction

Blocking an intersection

You must not enter or attempt to cross an intersection if the intersection or road you wish to drive into is blocked by other vehicles.

Driving too slowly

You must not drive so slowly that you obstruct the vehicle or vehicles following you. For example, driving at 20 km/h without a good reason where a speed limit of 80 km/h applies.

Emergency vehicles

It is an offence to obstruct a police or emergency vehicle with the warning siren sounding or displaying red and/or blue flashing lights. You must not move into the path, and must move out of the path of and give way to ensure that the emergency vehicle is provided with a clear and uninterrupted passage. You are allowed to disobey other road rules in order to move out of the way, but only if it is safe to do so.

Keeping clear of trams

You must not drive into the path of a tram travelling on tram tracks if there is a continuous yellow line on the left side of and parallel to the track. If a tram approaches, you must not obstruct the tram and must move on as soon as you can do so safely.

<< see page 106 >>

Parking

You must not park or stop your vehicle in a way that could be likely to obstruct other road users or be a danger to other road users.

Blocking or obstructing other road users is not only discourteous but potentially dangerous.



Further information on loading and towing is contained in the Load Restraint Guide and the MR25 – Light Vehicle Towing Trailer Regulations/ Vehicles Standards Fact Sheet, which are available from Customer Service Centres.

Towing and Loads

Loads

The maximum mass (or weight) of any motor vehicle fully loaded, which includes passengers, must not exceed the vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) specified by the manufacturer.

You can check your vehicle's GVM by looking in the vehicle handbook or asking the manufacturer's representative. The information in this section applies only to motor vehicles with a GVM of 4.5 tonnes or less. Also, when the section talks about towing a trailer, the same rules apply when towing a caravan or even another motor vehicle.

Restrictions on loads

You must not drive with a load on a vehicle or trailer that is not properly secured, causes the vehicle or trailer to be unstable, or projects in a way that could be dangerous or cause an obstruction.

Loads on vehicles, including trailers, must not project more than 1.2 metres over the front of the vehicle or 150 mm either side.

Loads that overhang to the rear and cannot be seen easily must have a bright and visible piece of cloth attached by day and a red light by night. There are specific restrictions to rear projection limits.

Fallen loads

You must not deposit or stack anything on a road (or road-related area) without approval. If any article or material, including fuel, falls from your vehicle on to a road, or you place any article or material on a road that could damage the road or cause danger to other road users, you must remove it, or take action to have it removed, as soon as you can do so safely. It is an offence to fail to do so.

Towing

If you wish to tow a trailer, caravan or another motor vehicle, you must first find out if you are allowed to tow with your vehicle by checking in your vehicle handbook or contacting the manufacturer.

If the handbook or manufacturer recommend against towing, you must not use the vehicle to tow, even if a tow bar has been fitted.

Towing capacity

If your vehicle can be used for towing, there are restrictions imposed by the towing capacity of your vehicle and towbar. The trailer's loaded mass must not exceed the towing capacity of your vehicle or the capacity of the towbar (whichever is the lowest). You should also comply with any conditions imposed by the vehicle manufacturer. You can find the towing capacity by looking in the vehicle handbook or contacting the manufacturer.

The towbar should be marked with its towing capacity. Some older towbars may not be marked so you should seek advice from the manufacturer or a suitably qualified person to determine the towbar's capacity.

If no towing capacity is specified for your vehicle or towbar, the trailer's maximum loaded mass must not exceed your vehicle's unladen mass. However, if the trailer has brakes that can be operated from within the towing vehicle you may tow up to 1½ times the towing vehicle's unladen mass. You can check your vehicle's unladen mass and your trailer's laden mass at a licensed weighbridge or at your local sand and metal depot. They must each be weighed while they are NOT connected.

Rules when towing

You must not drive a vehicle towing a trailer unless it is safe to do so. You must obey any speed limit applying to the road and must drive with due care and consideration of other road users. You must also be in control of the trailer (unless towing another motor vehicle and another person is in the towed vehicle and is controlling that vehicle's brakes and steering).

If using a towline of any sort, your vehicle must not be more than 4 metres from the vehicle being towed (motorcycles 2.5 metres). If the towline is longer than 2 metres, it must have a white or brightly-coloured piece of cloth attached in the middle to act as a warning signal to other road users.

<< see page 56 about Long Vehicles >>

Trailer equipment

Trailers that do not have 'break-away' brakes must also be attached to the towing vehicle by means of a chain or cable. If the trailer coupling fails, it must allow safe towing of the trailer and should prevent the drawbar from hitting the road.

All trailers with a Gross Trailer Mass (GTM) of more than 750 kg must be fitted with brakes. To determine the GTM, a loaded trailer must be

placed on a weighbridge. It must be connected to the towing vehicle, which should not be on the weighbridge.

All trailers must have two indicators and those built since July 1973 must have two brake lights and two rear (tail) lights.

Passengers in a trailer

Passengers must not travel in a trailer (including a caravan) that is being towed, or in the load carrying area of a utility or truck unless they are in a seating position that is suitable for their size and weight and is fitted with a seatbelt. This does not apply to a motor vehicle being towed if a person is travelling in the towed vehicle controlling its brakes and steering.

A passenger must not be carried in a trailer, caravan or the boot of a car.



Driving at Night or in Poor Visibility

When driving between sunset and sunrise or in hazardous weather conditions, when rain, dust or fog cause reduced or poor visibility, your vehicle's headlights, rear lights and number plate light must be turned on. It is an offence to drive a vehicle displaying only parking lights during these times.

Visibility can be said to be poor any time when, owing to insufficient daylight or unfavourable conditions, people or vehicles on a road are not clearly visible at a distance of about 100 metres to a person of normal vision.

Pedestrians and bicycles are sometimes hard to see at night and in bad weather. Watch carefully for them.

When driving at night or in poor visibility

- Your driving speed at night should be adjusted to the range of your headlights. Drive so that you can stop well within the distance you can see to be clear ahead.
- Do not look directly at oncoming headlights. You may be dazzled. Look at the left hand side of the road and drive well to the left. If you are dazzled, slow down. If you cannot see, stop.
- You can momentarily flash your headlights on high beam to indicate to another driver that you intend to overtake.
- Keep your windscreen and lights clean.

- Always dip your lights within 200 metres both when an oncoming vehicle is approaching you and when you are approaching the rear of another vehicle. It is an offence to use your lights in such a way that you dazzle other road users.
- Front or rear fog lights can also be used in fog or other hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility – but you must switch them off when visibility improves.
- To reduce the effect of being dazzled by the headlights of on-coming vehicles at night, before starting your journey, thoroughly clean your windscreen inside and outside of insects and dust. Regularly clean your windscreen and lights throughout your journey (usually at refuelling or rest stops).

Hazard warning lights

You must not use your hazard warning lights unless your vehicle is stopped or going slowly and causing an obstruction, or is stopped in an emergency lane.

Hazard warning lights can be used by drivers:

- in hazardous weather conditions
- as part of an anti-theft device
- if you are stopping to sell a product (such as ice-creams)
- by the driver of a school bus when picking up or setting down passengers.

Warning device (horn)

You must sound your warning device only to warn others of danger. You must not use your warning device to create unnecessary or offensive noise. Musical warning devices are not permitted.

Parking at night or in poor visibility

If you leave your vehicle on the road at night or when visibility is poor, it must have front and rear parking lights alight unless it is made clearly visible from a distance of 200 metres by a lighted street light or other lamp.

If your vehicle is 2.2 metres wide or wider, you must always have the clearance and side marker lights alight at night or in poor visibility.

Rear vision mirrors

Your vehicle must have a mirror or mirrors fitted so that you can have a clear view of any vehicle approaching from behind. If, for any reason, your view from an internally-fitted mirror is obscured, external mirrors must be fitted that provide a clear view.

Panel vans and utilities must be fitted with two external rear vision mirrors. At least one mirror must be fitted to each side of any vehicle when towing a trailer that is wider than the towing vehicle. Motorcycles built after (June 1975) must also have a rear vision mirror on each side.

Check list

Your vehicle needs to be fitted with:

- **lights** – headlights, tail lights, number plate light, parking lights
- **horn**
- **mirrors** – an internal rear view mirror, and if this does not offer a clear view, side mounted rear view mirrors.

This equipment must be kept functional and clean.



Motorcycles

Motorcycles are classified as motor vehicles and are therefore subject to the same general road rules as cars, trucks and other motor vehicles. Specific road laws apply to motorcycle riders. These are:

- an approved helmet must always be worn
- motorcycles built after June 1975 must have two rear view mirrors to provide a clear view of the road behind
- only one pillion passenger may be carried and then only if the bike is fitted with proper footrests and seating
- pillion passengers must always sit astride the seat facing forwards and with both feet on the footrests
- learner riders must not carry a pillion passenger unless the passenger is acting as a qualified supervising driver and the person has held a current unconditional Class R licence for the preceding two years
- overtaking on the left of another vehicle in the same lane is illegal
- riding between two lanes of stationary vehicles where lane lines are marked on the road is also illegal
- riders may ride two-abreast but no more than 1.5 metres apart
- both the rider and passenger are responsible for ensuring the passenger wears an approved helmet
- a child under the age of eight years cannot be carried as a pillion passenger on a motorcycle. They may only be carried in a sidecar

Motorcycles are motor vehicles and must follow all the regular road rules, plus those additional rules specific to motorcycles.

- all sidecar passengers must be safely seated at all times that the motorcycle is moving
- an animal cannot be carried on the petrol tank of a motorcycle (except a farm animal carried for less than 500 metres).

Being seen

The outline of a motorcycle is about one-third the size of a car, which makes it difficult for drivers to see them especially among other vehicles.

Remember that a motorcycle rider can see a car much better than a driver can see a motorcycle.

To improve your chances of being seen by other road users, it is recommended that you:

- wear bright coloured clothing
- ride with your headlight on at all times
- ride in a position on the road that provides maximum safety and visibility of your motorcycle to other road users (especially not in the blind spots of other vehicles).

Equipment and clothing

When choosing equipment and clothing, bear in mind the purpose: **VISIBILITY** as well as **PROTECTION**.



Compulsory equipment

A motorcycle rider, any pillion passenger and any passenger in a side car must wear an approved safety helmet. An 'approved' helmet is a helmet manufactured, tested and marked in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Standard (AS 1698) or European Standard (ECE 22.05) as specified in the **Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014**.

Further information about motorcyclist safety can be found in the Rider's Safety Handbook on mylicence.sa.gov.au.

A white or brightly coloured helmet provides good visibility both by day and night. The helmet must be a snug fit and fastened at all times.

Recommended equipment

Clothing of strong, brightly coloured material covering arms and legs is recommended.

Leather gloves offer good protection for hands and enclosed, sturdy footwear protects feet.

You should never ride in sandals, thongs or bare feet.

Motor vehicle drivers also need to know the rules and responsibilities of cyclists.

Road rules for cyclists

The South Australian Road Traffic Act including the Australian Road Rules define the rules and responsibilities of all road users, including bicycle riders. The following section, pages 90 to 96, outlines rules that apply specifically to bicycle riders and includes other relevant road rules.

Bicycles are classified as vehicles and therefore bicycle riders have the same responsibilities, and must obey the same rules, as motor vehicle drivers. Remember:

- You can be charged with a traffic offence in the same way as a motor vehicle driver. This includes incurring demerit points against your driver's licence if you hold one. If you do not hold a driver's licence you will still incur demerit points which can prohibit you from obtaining a licence in the future.
- Although the law gives you the same rights and responsibilities as other road users, other road users may not be aware of this
- You are more easily injured than motor vehicle occupants and it is therefore safer for you to be highly visible and look out for other road users when riding
- The law does not give anyone indisputable right of way, nor should you assume that another road user is going to give way
- Some people will judge all bicycle riders by your actions. If you disregard the road rules, you can undermine the goodwill of other road users.

Bicycle helmets

When riding, you must wear an approved bicycle helmet that is properly adjusted and securely fastened. An approved bicycle helmet must comply with Australian Standard AS/NZ2063 which will appear on the helmet, and shops must not sell or offer bicycle helmets for sale unless they meet this standard. This also applies to any passenger that you may have on your bicycle.

Riding at night and in hazardous weather

Riding when visibility is reduced such as at night or in hazardous weather conditions (heavy rain), you must have (either on you or on your bicycle):

- a flashing or steady white light that is clearly visible at least 200 metres from the front of the bicycle
- a flashing or steady red light that is clearly visible at least 200 metres from the rear of the bicycle
- a red rear reflector that is clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the bicycle when light is projected on to it by a vehicle headlight on low beam.

Keeping to the left

You must keep as close as reasonably practicable to the left side of the road except:

- when making, or about to make, a right turn
- where the road is divided into lanes
- when overtaking.

In deciding how close to the left side of the road or path is 'reasonably practicable', you should take into account factors such as obstacles in your path, lighting conditions at the time, and the quality of the riding surface.

Causing a hazard

You must not cause a traffic hazard (cause danger to yourself or others) by riding into the path of a driver or pedestrian.

For example, if you move out to pass a parked car or avoid an obstacle without checking behind for other road vehicles, you can cause danger to yourself or others. You should only move out to pass a parked car or avoid an obstacle when it is safe to do so.

'No bicycles' signs

You must not ride on a length of road or path to which a Road Access sign or a No Bicycles sign applies (see diagrams).

These signs apply to all riders.



Road Access sign



No Bicycles sign

Hand signals

You must give a hand signal when preparing to turn right, diverge right or when changing lanes to the right. However, when undertaking a hook turn, you do not need to give a hand signal (see Hook turns – page 95).

Riding and seating position

When riding, you must face forward and be in a seat designed for travelling on a bicycle. You must not ride the bicycle seated in any other position, e.g. on the handlebars or the crossbar.

Carrying passengers

You must not carry more passengers than the bicycle is designed or equipped to carry. Most bicycles are designed to carry only the rider, however there are exceptions including child carrier seats, tandems

and bicycle trailers. Extra persons are not to be carried unless they are in a seat designed for a passenger.

Riding without hands on the handlebars

You must always have at least one hand on the handlebars and have proper control of the bicycle.

Holding onto a moving vehicle

You must not be towed or hold on to a moving vehicle, including another bicycle rider.

Leading an animal

You must not lead (on a leash or any other leading device) an animal from a vehicle, including a bicycle.

Slip streaming or pacing

You must not ride within two metres of the back of a moving motor vehicle for more than 200 metres.

Speed limits

Bicycle riders must obey the same speed limits as drivers of motor vehicles.

Alcohol

No person can drink alcohol without affecting their ability to drive a vehicle or ride a motorcycle or bicycle. It is also an offence to ride a bicycle 'under the influence' (DUI).

Warning device

Every bicycle must have within easy reach a functioning warning device, such as a bell or horn.

Bicycle lanes

Bicycle lanes are for the exclusive use of bicycle riders. These lanes are indicated by bicycle lane signs or by road markings comprising both a white bicycle symbol and the word 'lane' painted in white. The lanes operate during the times indicated. If no times are stated, they operate at all times.

Green bicycle lanes are installed at intersections where there is a higher potential for conflict between motor vehicles and bicycles. They clearly highlight the boundaries of a bicycle lane and the road.

If you are riding on a road with a bicycle lane, you must if practicable, ride in the bicycle lane. You may move out of the bicycle lane to avoid debris, potholes, or to safely overtake another bicycle rider. You must only ride in the correct direction in the bicycle lane.

Where there is insufficient room for two riders to ride abreast in a bicycle lane, as a courtesy you should try and ride in single file. During the bicycle lane operating times, you must not ride outside a bicycle lane abreast of another rider unless you are overtaking.

Other road users are permitted to use a bicycle lane only when:

- the bicycle lane is not in operation
- stopping in an emergency
- entering or leaving the road from private property, a parking area, including a parking lane, or another road (and then only for up to 50 metres)



Bicycle Lane operates at all times sign



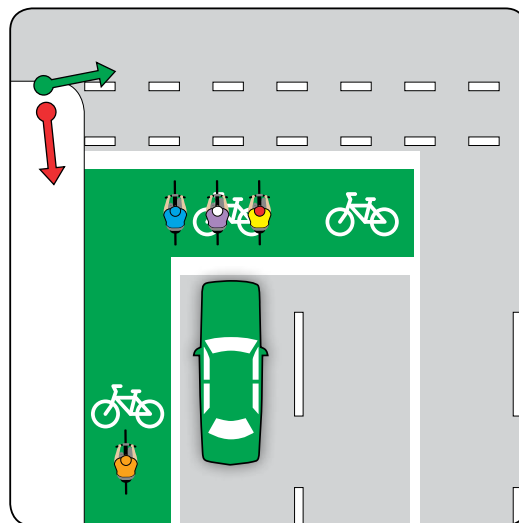
Bicycle Lane operates at times stated sign



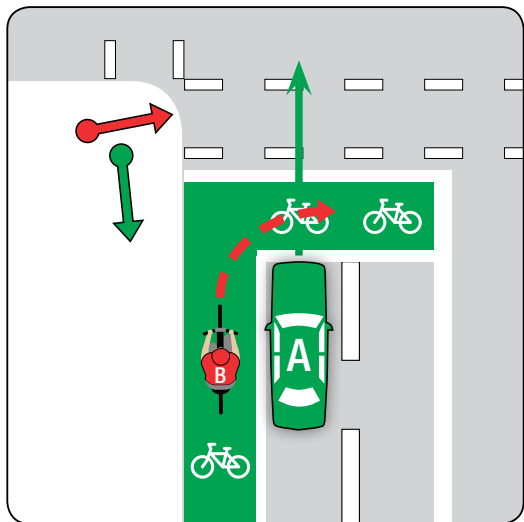
- overtaking a vehicle turning right or making a U-turn (and then only for up to 50 metres)
- avoiding an obstruction (and then only for up to 50 metres)
- driving a bus or taxi picking up or dropping off passengers (and then only for up to 50 metres).

Bicycle storage areas (Bicycle boxes)

A bicycle storage area is a safety feature at an intersection with traffic lights to allow bicycle riders to be more visible to drivers. It is represented on the road with a white bicycle symbol and the area may be painted green.



- At a red traffic signal, bicycle riders wanting to turn left or go straight must keep to the left of the bicycle storage area (bike box).
- Bicycle riders wanting to turn right must keep to the right of the bicycle storage area (bike box).



A cyclist must give way to all vehicles and not enter a bike storage area if the traffic lights are green.

When entering a bicycle storage area, a bicycle rider must give way:

- to any vehicle that is in the area
- if the area is before any green or yellow traffic lights, any vehicle that is entering or about to enter the area, unless the motor vehicle is turning in a direction that is subject to a red traffic arrow
- if the area forms part of a lane to which traffic arrows apply, any vehicle that is entering or about to enter the area at a time when those arrows are green or yellow.

Giving way to buses

All vehicles in the left lane (including a bicycle lane) must give way to any bus displaying a Give Way to Buses sign and is indicating its intention to rejoin the traffic flow.



Give Way to Buses sign

Bus lanes

You are permitted to ride in bus lanes; however you should not obstruct a bus using the lane and ride as close as reasonably practicable to the left side.



Bus Lane operates at all times sign



Bus Lane operates at stated times sign

Bus only lane

You are not permitted to ride in a Bus Only Lane. *Bus Only Lane sign*
These lanes are usually coloured red and in South Australia most have a bicycle lane adjacent for bicycle riders to ride in.

When there is a separate signal for buses (a white 'B' light) at an intersection, you must allow the bus to proceed on that signal. It is illegal for any other vehicle, including a bicycle, to proceed on the white 'B' signal.

Roundabouts

Like all motorists entering a roundabout, bicycle riders must give way to vehicles already on the roundabout and should look out for vehicles



Bicycle riders in the far left lane of a multi lane roundabout must give way to any vehicle leaving the roundabout.



Bus Only
Lane sign

approaching the roundabout from the right. You may turn right from either lane of a multi-lane roundabout. However, if you are riding in the far left lane, you must give way to any vehicle leaving the roundabout.

Riding abreast

You may ride beside another bicycle rider on a road but must not ride more than 1.5 metres apart. Three or more bicycle riders must not ride beside each other, although you are permitted to overtake other bicycle riders that are riding beside each other. You must not ride outside a bicycle lane abreast of another rider in a bicycle lane unless you are overtaking (see Bicycle Lanes, p.92).

Passing (overtaking) vehicles on the left

Whether you are riding in a marked bicycle lane or sharing a lane with a vehicle, a bicycle rider must not pass or overtake on the left of any vehicle that is giving a left change of direction signal and is turning left. A bicycle rider may pass or overtake a vehicle on the left when the vehicle is giving a left change of direction signal and is stationary or moving forward to turn left. Once the vehicle begins turning left the rider must not ride past or overtake the vehicle on the left.

A driver turning left through a break in a dividing strip must give way to any cyclist travelling in the bicycle lane. A dividing strip is a painted area or a raised structure, located between intersections, separating the bicycle lane from a marked lane. Drivers must not overtake a cyclist and then turn left in front of the cyclist's path without due care and consideration to the movement and safety of the cyclist.

Pedestrian and Children's crossings

There are special rules that apply at children's crossings (i.e. crossings with red and white posts and orange flags or flashing lights).

All road users (including bicycle riders) must give way to pedestrians on children's crossings. You must not overtake another vehicle that has stopped at a crossing to give way to pedestrians, either to the right or left of that vehicle. You must remain stationary if any pedestrian is on or entering the crossing.

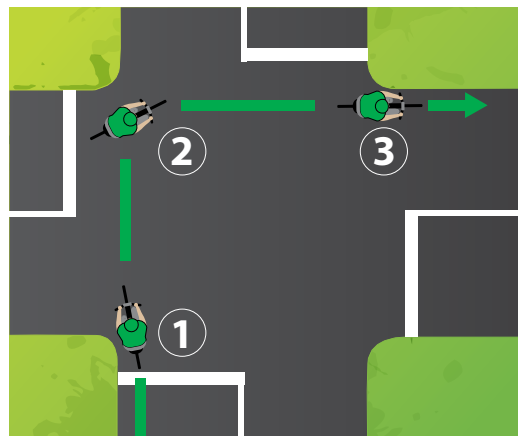
You must not ride across a pedestrian crossing to cross the road from one side to the other. You must walk with your bicycle across the road. This rule does not apply to those bicycle riders who have an exemption to ride across pedestrian crossings, provided they carry a letter issued by their doctor.

Exemption to ride across pedestrian crossings (from side to side)

If you have a disability or medical condition, you may be permitted to ride your bicycle across pedestrian crossings if you obtain a letter from your doctor. You must be named in the letter and it would need to say that you are permitted to ride across pedestrian crossings due to your disability or other medical condition. The letter must be carried whilst riding and it can be valid indefinitely or for a period specified by your doctor.

Bicycle crossing lights

Bicycle crossings have been installed to assist bicycle riders to cross busy roads – the same way in which pedestrian lights assist pedestrians. If you are approaching or at bicycle crossing lights, you must obey the lights and only proceed when the traffic or bicycle light is green. Unlike a pedestrian or children's crossing, you can ride across a bicycle crossing.



*How to make
a hook turn*

Hook turns

When turning right at an intersection, you have the option of making a hook turn (from the left lane), rather than making a normal right turn. A hook turn may be more convenient on some roads, such as those with heavy traffic. When making a hook turn, you must obey all traffic laws such as only proceeding on a green light and giving way to other traffic.

When making a hook turn you must complete the following steps (see diagram right):

1. Approach and enter the intersection from the left side.
2. Move forward and wait on the opposite left corner.
3. Then proceed onto the road to which the right turn was to be made.

Rules for paths

This section explains the different types of 'off-road' paths available to bicycle riders and some associated rules bicycle riders must follow when using them.

When riding on any path you must:

- exercise due care and consideration for pedestrians and other users
- give warning to pedestrians or other path users by sounding your bell or horn or by other means, if necessary for the purpose of averting danger
- keep to the left of any oncoming bicycle rider
- wear an approved bicycle helmet that is properly secured and fastened.

Specifically when using footpaths or shared paths you must:

- keep to the left of the path unless it is impracticable to do so
- give way to any pedestrians.

Footpaths

Cyclists are allowed to ride on a footpath unless a No Bicycles sign is displayed.

Bicycle paths

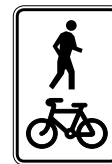
A bicycle path is for the exclusive use of bicycle riders and is identified by signs and path markings.



Bicycle path sign

Shared paths

There are an increasing number of paths that can be used by bicycle riders. In most cases, these are shared paths with pedestrians. These paths are identified by signs.



Shared path sign

Separated paths

A separated path is divided into sections, one of which is designated for the exclusive use of bicycle riders and the other for pedestrians. These paths are identified by signs and path markings and you must not ride along the part of the path designated for pedestrians.



Separated path sign

Parks and private property

Some parks do not allow bicycle riding within their grounds. If you are unsure about bicycle access, you should contact the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, or the appropriate local council or land owner for advice.



Parking

Parking is when you stop and allow your vehicle to stay in one place, whether or not you leave the vehicle unattended. Parking is allowed in many places on the road and in road-related areas and you should always obey any signs.

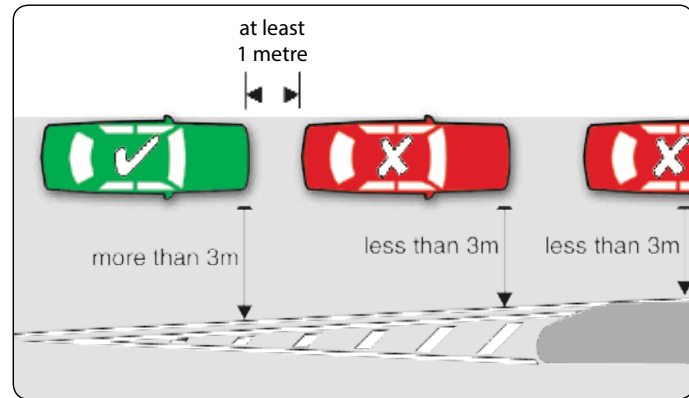
At all times when stopping or parking, you must not open the doors of the vehicle so as to endanger bicycle riders, pedestrians or other road users.

Parallel parking

Unless there are signs or markings on the road to indicate some other method, you must park parallel to the edge of the road and footpath. The rules are:

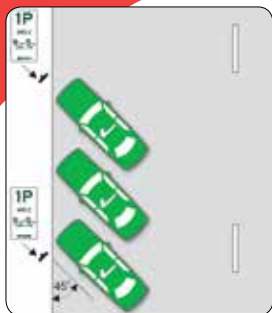
- park your vehicle so that it is facing in the same direction as the moving traffic
- in a two-way road, park your vehicle parallel to and as near as practicable to the left edge of the road
- in a one-way road, park parallel to and as near as practicable to the left or right edge of the road
- where parking bays are marked on the road, leave your vehicle entirely within a single bay, unless the vehicle is too wide or long to fit completely within the bay
- where there are no parking bays, leave at least one metre between your vehicle and the vehicles in front and behind

- unless permitted by a parking sign, leave a minimum of three metres between your vehicle and any continuous dividing line, dividing strip (Example 48) or, if on a narrow road, the other side of the road
- if your vehicle is a heavy or long vehicle, it must be parked in the minimum number of parking bays, if there are parking bays available.

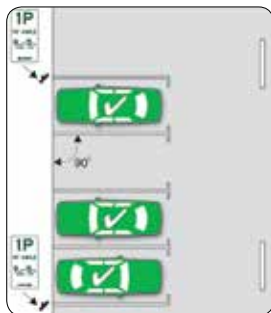


Example 48

Parallel parking — minimum distance from other vehicles and dividing strip
In the example, the vehicles marked with an 'X' are parked in contravention of this rule.



Example 49
Parking front to the kerb at 45° at the side of a two-way road.



Example 50
Parking front or rear to the kerb at 90° at the side of a two-way road.

Angle parking

Angle parking is indicated by signs or road markings. It means you must park your vehicle at the appropriate angle to the kerb, as indicated by the sign or markings on the road and you must park entirely within a parking bay.

If a sign states Angle Parking but does not give the exact angle, you must park at 45 degrees with front to kerb (Example 49).

If a sign or markings indicate 90 degree parking, you may park with front to the kerb (Example 50) unless a sign states otherwise.

Heavy vehicles

If your vehicle is a heavy or long vehicle:

- it must not obstruct other road users or pedestrians
- it must not be parked on a road in a built-up area for more than one hour unless:
 - a sign or traffic control device allows a longer period
 - the driver is dropping off or picking up goods and stays for no longer than is necessary to complete the task
 - a local council has granted an exemption.

A vehicle is a heavy vehicle if it has a Gross Vehicle Mass of 4.5 tonnes or more.

A vehicle is a long vehicle if, together with any load, projection, caravan or trailer, it is 7.5 metres long or longer.

<< see page 56 about Long Vehicles >>

No Stopping

To 'stop' a vehicle means to stop and remain stationary for even a short period of time. You must not stop or park your vehicle in any area where a 'No Stopping' sign or a continuous yellow edge line applies, even to pick up or set down passengers or goods.

No Parking

You must not park your vehicle in an area where a 'No Parking' sign applies, unless:

- you are dropping off or picking up passengers or goods
- you do not leave the vehicle unattended – that is, move more than three metres away and
- you complete the dropping off or picking up as soon as possible – in any case, within two minutes.

Please note: a No Standing sign has the same meaning as a No Stopping sign.



No Stopping sign
(for a length
of road)

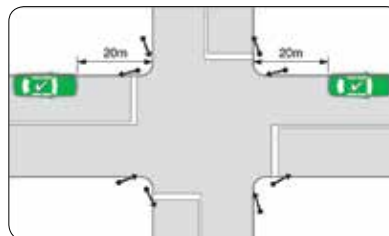


No Parking sign
(for a length
of road)

Where Stopping and Parking are banned

Unless a sign permits you to do otherwise, you must not stop or park your vehicle:

- within 20 metres of an intersection with traffic lights (Example 51)
- within 10 metres of an intersection without traffic lights, except when parking on the continuing road of a T-intersection opposite the terminating road (Example 52)
- on or across a driveway (Example 53 – page 100), laneway, gates, or doors by which vehicles enter or leave, unless you are dropping off or picking up passengers, or opening/closing the gates
- on or across a footpath, or a footpath ramp
- on a pedestrian crossing or within 20 metres before, or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing (Examples 54 and 55 – page 100).



Example 51
Measurement of distance — intersection
with traffic lights.



Example 52
Measurement of distance — T-intersection without
traffic lights.

- on an area of road on which the words 'Keep Clear' are marked
- within one metre of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant indicator or fire plug indicator
- within 20 metres before and after the nearest rail or track of a railway or tram level crossing (Example 16 – page 71)
- 20 metres before and 10 metres after a bus stop
- in a bus zone indicated by signs
- next to a vehicle that is parked at the side of a road (double parking)
- in a Loading Zone, unless you are:
 - driving a commercial vehicle loading or unloading goods (and then for no longer than 30 minutes or as indicated on the sign)
 - driving another sort of vehicle and loading or unloading a cargo that is difficult to handle due to its weight or size (and then for no longer than 30 minutes or as indicated by the sign)
 - driving a public bus or taxi (and then only to immediately set down or pick up passengers)
 - permitted to park, as indicated by the sign
- on any bridge, tunnel, causeway, ramp or culvert, unless the road is at least as wide on or in the structure as it is on each of the approaches
- on or near a crest or curve outside a built-up area unless you can be seen for at least 100 metres by drivers travelling in the same direction
- in a zoned area, unless your vehicle is of the type allowed, such as a taxi in a taxi zone
- in a lane designated for a particular type of vehicle, such as bus lane or bicycle lane, unless you are driving that sort of vehicle
- on a footpath, dividing strip, or nature strip

- within three metres of a post box unless dropping off, or picking up, passengers or mail
- where a motorcycle or bicycle parking sign applies, unless riding a motorcycle or bicycle respectively
- in a parking area reserved for people with disabilities, unless displaying a valid permit
- on a painted island.

A person driving a vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock device would have a defence to a parking offence provided they remain with the vehicle and stop for no longer than necessary to comply with the scheme's conditions.

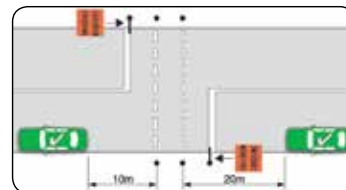
Example 53

Blocking a driveway
The vehicle marked 'X' is parked illegally.



Example 54

Measurement of distance
— children's crossing with red and white posts (an 'emu' crossing).



Example 55

Measurement of distance
— pedestrian crossing.



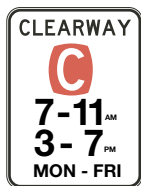
Causing an obstruction or danger

It is an offence to stop or park a vehicle on a road in a position that could:

- cause or be likely to cause danger to other traffic or people
- be likely to obstruct traffic on a road.

Clearways

A Clearway is a length of road indicated by a sign(s) on which stopping and/or parking are restricted during times of peak traffic use. The operating hours are indicated on signs at the start of and in the Clearway. You must not stop on a Clearway, including setting down or picking up passengers, during the operating hours. Buses are exempt.



Clearway sign indicating the beginning of the Clearway

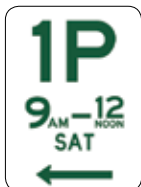


End clearway sign indicating the end of the Clearway

Time limits

Where there is a time limit indicated by a sign, you must not park in the zone for longer than the specified time limit.

It is an offence to exceed the maximum time limit indicated on the parking sign by placing more coins in a parking meter or ticket dispensing machine.



Australian disability parking scheme

A vehicle displaying an Australian disability parking permit is allowed to park as follows:

- if the time limit on the parking sign is less than 30 minutes they can park for 30 minutes
- if the time limit on the sign is 30 minutes to an hour they can park for two hours
- if the time limit on the sign is more than 1 hour they can park for twice the period of time indicated on the sign

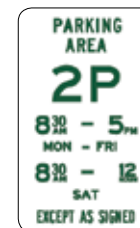


If a fee is payable to park on a street a permit holder is required to pay for the time stated on the parking sign but does not have to pay for the additional time they are permitted to stop.

Please note the additional time allowance does not apply to parking spaces set aside for people with disabilities.

Parking at night

You can leave your vehicle parked on the road at night without the parking lights on if there is a street light or other lamp alight that is making it clearly visible from a distance of 200 metres. Otherwise, if you leave your vehicle parked on the road at night, it must have front and rear parking lights alight.



If a vehicle is 2.2 metres wide or wider, you must have the clearance and side marker lights alight for the safety of other road users unless there is street lighting making it clearly visible from a distance of at least 200 metres.

General exemptions to stopping and parking rules

The parking rules referred to previously, do not apply under the following circumstances:

- to avoid a collision
- if your vehicle is disabled
- because of the condition of driver or passengers, in the interests of safety
- to deal with a medical emergency
- to obey the directions of a police officer
- to comply with another law.

In each case, you must not park or stop for any longer than is necessary in the circumstances and you should move your vehicle as soon as you can.

These exemptions do not apply to the requirements to:

- have lights on a parked vehicle at night (see Parking at night)
- obey a 'Keep Clear' road marking.

Tow-trucks, emergency vehicles and postal vehicles are exempt when acting in the course of their duties.

Buses are permitted to stop to pick up and drop off passengers, but not on the South-Eastern Freeway and the Southern Expressway.

On the South-Eastern Freeway and the Southern Expressway, you may only stop in the emergency stopping lane and then only in an emergency.

Mobile phones while driving

You must not use a hand-held mobile phone while your vehicle is moving or is stationary in traffic (for example, at traffic lights). You may, however, use a hand-held mobile phone while your vehicle is parked.

- If a person wishes to make or receive a call, including dialling a number and needs to touch any part of the phone to do so, that phone must be mounted (in a mounting commercially designed and manufactured for that purpose).
- If the phone is being used via blue tooth, a headset or earphones without touching, holding or resting the phone on their body, the driver may touch the earpiece or headphone to operate the phone (the phone may be located anywhere in the vehicle, including the driver's pocket or pouch they are wearing).



Research has shown that using a mobile phone while driving increases crash risk by at least 4 times. There is no safe level of mobile use while driving.

- It is an offence to create, send or look at a text, video message or email on a mobile phone.
- Drivers of police or emergency vehicles are exempt.

This does not apply to a driver's aid, such as vehicle system equipment, dispatch system, ticket issuing machine, navigational system, rear view screen, or closed circuit security camera.

Using the GPS function on a mobile phone while driving

You can use the GPS function on your mobile phone only if the phone is fixed to the vehicle in a commercially designed and manufactured cradle and you do not touch it while you are driving. You will need to set the GPS location on your mobile phone before starting your journey and if you need to make any changes while you are driving, you will need to pull over and park before making those changes.

Remember, if you are a learner's permit or provisional (P1) licence holder you are prohibited from using any type of mobile phone function while driving. The mobile phone ban includes:

- using hands-free mode including Bluetooth technology
- loud speaker operation
- GPS
- text messaging.

Miscellaneous Rules

Keeping within a vehicle

You must not drive with any part of your body outside the vehicle, except:

- when giving a hand signal
- when carrying out door-to-door delivery/garbage collection (and then at less than 25 km/h).

You must not allow any passenger in a vehicle you are driving to have any part of his or her body outside the vehicle. This rule does not include motorcycle riders and their passengers.

Riding outside a vehicle

You must not allow any person to ride on the roof or bonnet of your vehicle, or any other external part of the vehicle. For example, if you are driving a 4WD vehicle, you must not allow any person to ride on the side or rear steps, or the roof rack ladder.

Carrying passengers in utilities or panel vans

You must not drive with a person or people in or on a part of a vehicle primarily designed for the carriage of goods. This means passengers cannot travel in the back of a utility or panel van.

Animal or passenger on lap

A driver must not drive with an animal or passenger on their lap.

Leading animals

Neither the driver nor the passenger can lead an animal while the vehicle is being driven, including a bicycle.

Safety Ramp

A safety ramp is an area made of a special material designed to stop runaway vehicles. A driver must not drive in a safety ramp unless in the interest of road safety.

Carrying passengers in trailers

You must not drive with a person or people in or on a trailer, including a caravan.

Opening doors

You must not cause a hazard, nor must your passengers cause a hazard, to any other road user by opening a vehicle door or leaving it open. You and your passengers must not endanger other road users, such as cyclists, when getting out of or off of your vehicle.

You (and your passengers) must keep your whole body within a vehicle, and must not travel on the outside of a vehicle, in a utility or trailer, or in a caravan.

When a vehicle is moving

You must not get on or off (or into or out of) a moving vehicle unless you are engaged in door-to-door delivery or collection, such as milk delivery or garbage collection, and the vehicle is not travelling at more than 5 km/h.

Televisions and Visual Display Units

You must not drive a vehicle that has a television receiver or visual display unit (such as a DVD player) that is in operation and visible to the driver or the driver of another vehicle. This does not apply to driver's aids such as navigational equipment.

Defective vehicles

You must not drive on the road, a vehicle that does not comply with the roadworthiness requirements of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*. If your vehicle is defective, you may be stopped at any time by a police officer and issued with a defect notice that will require you to have certain repairs undertaken. Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure inspectors also have the power to stop and inspect a vehicle for roadworthiness. Defect notices can instruct an owner or driver – until repairs have been made and approved – not to drive the vehicle on the road or not to sell or dispose of the vehicle.

Unnecessary noise or smoke

You must not start or drive a vehicle in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke.

For example, causing the wheels of a vehicle to spin and lose traction may make unnecessary noise or smoke.

It is also an offence for your vehicle to emit visible emissions for more than 10 seconds. This does not apply to emissions visible only because of heat or the condensation of water vapour.

Obeying directions

You must obey directions given by a Police officer or another authorised person.

At ferries, you must obey directions given by the ferry officer.

If traffic is being controlled by a Police officer or another authorised person, the directions must be obeyed in preference to traffic signals or signs.

If traffic is being controlled at a road works site by traffic lights or hand-held Stop-Go signs, you must obey the directions given.

Radar detectors and similar devices

It is an offence to drive a vehicle if the vehicle, or trailer being towed by the vehicle, has a device for preventing the effective use of a speed measuring device, or a device for detecting the use of a speed measuring device.

Protection of roads

If you cause any damage to a road surface, bridge or traffic control device, you are required, as soon as practicable, to advise the Police or the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.



Remember, pedestrians can run out onto the road to catch a tram without looking, so take extra care and look out for them.

Trams

South Australia has extended its tramway and trams are now a major part of the metropolitan road network.

Drivers and pedestrians need to be aware of the road rules associated with trams so everyone can share the road safely.

Drivers should always take extra care when driving near trams and be on the lookout for pedestrians who cross the road to catch a tram without looking.

Tram lanes and passing trams

Unless they are part of an off-road tramway where vehicles are not permitted, tram tracks are positioned in the middle of the road in specially marked tram lanes.

Unless specifically allowed, drivers must not drive in tram lanes.

Drivers must not drive past or overtake a tram to the right, unless allowed to do so by a traffic sign or road marking.

Additionally drivers must not drive past or overtake a tram to the left if the tram is turning left, or signalling to turn left, unless the driver is also turning left and there is no danger of a collision.



Driving past a tram safety zone

A tram safety zone is an area of a road that is indicated by safety zone signs at a tram stop and by a structure on the road such as a dividing strip or traffic island.

When driving past a tram safety zone a driver must drive to the left of the safety zone at a speed that would not endanger any pedestrian crossing the road.



Giving way to pedestrians and driving past a stopped tram

If a tram stops on a road without a safety zone, dividing strip or traffic island a driver must stop and not proceed if there is any pedestrian on the road.

If there are no pedestrians crossing the road a driver may drive past a stationary tram where there is no safety zone, dividing strip or traffic island at a speed not exceeding 10 kilometres per hour.