



Sharing roads and paths

Everyone

Sharing roads and paths provides you with information about rules and safe behaviours when interacting with bicycle riders or when you are riding.

Bicycle riders, drivers, motor bike riders and pedestrians are all legitimate users of the road system.

Road rules

- know and obey the road rules
- know your responsibilities
- obey road signs and signals
- bicycles are considered vehicles and are permitted on the road, unless signed, even if there is a nearby off-road path

Be alert

- be aware and anticipate the next moves of all road users, especially children and older people
- make eye contact with road users, especially at intersections
- use audio devices at low volume to allow you to hear what is going on around you
- green bike lanes highlight high-risk areas
- look out for pedestrians crossing the road

Be predictable

- be clear about your intentions
- when changing direction, indicate with sufficient notice to other road users

Be courteous

- be considerate and patient on all roads and paths
- acknowledge good behaviour
- don't respond to road rage or harassment

Definitions

Bicycle rider

Bicycle riders include anyone riding a bicycle

Pedestrian

Pedestrians include people on foot, wheeled devices such as skateboards, rollerblades, wheelchairs and motorised mobility devices

Driver

Drivers include people operating a car, bus or truck



Road rules

Bicycle riders

- you cannot pass a vehicle on the left when the vehicle is indicating and in the process of turning left
- keep your bicycle roadworthy - you must have at least one effective brake, and a working bell or horn
- you must stop behind a stationary tram and wait for the tram doors to close and the pedestrians to clear the road before continuing
- you must wear an Australian standard bicycle helmet, securely fitted and fastened
- you must not ride in areas reserved for pedestrians
- you must not ride more than two abreast unless overtaking. When riding two abreast, bicycle riders should not be more than 1.5 metres apart
- you can only carry up to the number of people that the bicycle and attachments such as trailers are designed for
- you must ride in an on-road bicycle lane if there is one unless impractical to do so
- you must give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared paths

Drivers and motor bike riders

- before moving, look for bicycle riders, indicate and check your mirrors
- before opening car doors, use your mirrors and do a head check, and remind your passengers to check for bicycle riders
- stop before the first white line or bike box at intersections
- only enter a bike lane if clear of bicycle riders for a maximum of 50 metres, to make a left turn or to enter a parking space on the roadway
- when turning give way to all vehicles including pedestrians

Pedestrians

- only cross on a green crossing signal
- don't walk on a bike-only path unless crossing



Be alert

Bicycle riders

- ride with caution passed parked cars
- be aware of opening car doors
- ride outside the car door zone when safe to do so
- don't ride in a driver's blind spot, make sure the driver can see you
- watch for hazards and obstacles on the road, such as potholes and grates
- cross tram tracks at right angles
- look for vehicles, motor bikes and pedestrians entering and exiting driveways and laneways

Drivers and motor bike riders

- expect to see bicycle riders on all roads in all areas
- leave at least one metre when overtaking bicycle riders - more if travelling over 60km/h
- look for bicycle riders' hand signals, so you are aware of their intentions
- look for bicycle riders turning right from the left lane at a roundabout
- watch for pedestrians and bicycle riders when leaving or entering a driveway

Pedestrians

- look and listen for bicycle riders and other road users when crossing roads or paths
- expect to see bicycle riders on shared paths and footpaths

Be predictable

Bicycle riders

- don't move in and out of traffic - maintain a straight line
- use clear hand signals when changing lanes and turning

Drivers and motor bike riders

- provide sufficient notice to other road users when changing lanes
- avoid sudden lane changes

Pedestrians

- look out for bicycle riders and don't make sudden moves across their path

Safe speeds

Bicycle riders

- manage your speed so you can slow or stop safely

Drivers and motor bike riders

- leave plenty of space when turning in front of bicycle riders
- when overtaking a bicycle rider, slow down and allow a space of at least one metre
- manage your speed so you can slow or stop safely

Pedestrians

- look for bicycle riders as they can travel faster than cars in busy traffic
- watch for bicycle riders when walking through queues of stopped vehicles

Be courteous

Bicycle riders

- use your bell, or voice when approaching pedestrians and other bicycle riders
- ride at appropriate speeds when using a shared path or footpath
- slow down when overtaking pedestrians
- when riding in a group in busy traffic, or on narrow roads, consider riding in single file to allow vehicles to overtake safely
- be considerate about where you park your bicycle so you are not obstructing footpaths, pedestrians, wheelchairs or mobility scooter access

Drivers and motor bike riders

- wait behind bicycle riders at intersections, the same as you do for other vehicles
- don't sound your horn unnecessarily around bicycle riders
- give bicycle riders time to ride off when traffic lights turn green
- give bicycle riders space when sharing the road as sometimes they need to ride out of a lane to avoid a hazard or obstacle
- park your vehicle so it does not obstruct bicycle riders, pedestrians, bike lanes or the path

Pedestrians

- when you hear or see bicycle riders, keep left to allow them to pass safely
- move off the path if you want to stop
- encourage children to keep left when sharing paths
- keep dog(s) on a short leash to your left on a shared path

Footpaths and bicycle riders

Who can ride on them?

- children aged 11 years and younger and accompanying adults
- a bicycle rider with a medical exemption



Be visible

Bicycle riders

- use your lights at night and at low visibility times
- make sure you have working lights on the front and the rear of your bicycle. Lights must be visible for at least 200 metres and should not dazzle other road users
- make sure your bicycle has a rear red reflector
- wear light or bright colours, high visibility or reflective materials

Drivers and motor bike riders

- dip headlights at night when approaching bicycle riders and pedestrians

Pedestrians

- ensure other road and path users can see you

Sharing with other bicycle riders

Bicycle riders

- develop cycling skills for your safety and the safety of others
- keep adequate space in front of you to avoid wheels overlapping
- don't cut in too soon after overtaking other bicycle rider(s)
- ride within a single vehicle lane
- you must not ride more than two abreast unless overtaking. When riding two abreast riders should not be more than 1.5 metres apart
- use your voice and hand signals to point at hazards or obstacles
- do not change direction or brake suddenly

Supporting partners

