

MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS

Information for
**MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR
SAFETY**



Roads and Traffic Authority
www.rta.nsw.gov.au

MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS

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MOTORISED WHEELCHAIRS

LICENSING & INSURANCE

Definitions

This information applies in NSW to motorised wheelchairs (3 and 4 wheeled) used as a mobility aid that cannot travel over 10km per hour (on level ground).

Do I Need Any Kind of Licence?

No - a person driving a motorised wheelchair that cannot travel over 10km per hour (on level ground) is defined as a pedestrian under the Australia Road Rules.

Do I Need to Register My Motorised Wheelchair?

No - vehicles that cannot travel over 10km per hour (on level ground) and which are used solely for the conveyance of an invalid do not require registration.

Do I Need Third Party Insurance Coverage?

A motorised wheelchair is not required to have third party insurance.

What are My Insurance Choices?

If you choose to obtain insurance, listed below are some options:

- 1 Public Liability Policies
- 2 House Contents and Personal Effects Policies
- 3 Personal Accident Policies

Any insurance company or broker will be able to assist you with this.

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DRIVER SKILLS & ABILITIES

Do I Need a Driving Test before Riding a Motorised Wheelchair?

No - a rider of a motorised wheelchair does not need to be licensed so there is no formal test of your skill as a driver.

Can Anyone Help Assess My Driving Skill?

Workers from services such as Community Health, your local hospital, or Doctor, Aged Care Assessment Team or other service which may be assisting you, may be able to undertake or arrange an assessment of your driving abilities. They could advise on ways of compensating for any areas where you have difficulty.

What are the Main Things a Driver Must be Able to Do to Use a Motorised Wheelchair Safely?

Co-ordination and Strength

- ◆ Ability to manipulate controls, e.g. turn key, adjust dials, use accelerator
- ◆ Ability to steer and turn motorised wheelchair, even in tight corners
- ◆ Ability to turn head to look to side or behind if reversing

Physical Balance and Endurance

- ◆ Ability to maintain balance when travelling across uneven or rough terrain
- ◆ Ability to adjust body position when travelling up/down inclines, e.g. ramps, driveways
- ◆ Ability to handle different weather conditions if travelling outdoors or long distances
- ◆ Ability to be seated for extended periods
- ◆ Ability to stand and walk short distances if you must leave the motorised wheelchair

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Vision

- ◆ Ability to notice and move around obstacles in all fields of vision
- ◆ Ability to notice moving objects and avoid collisions
- ◆ Ability to notice objects in the periphery of your vision e.g. picking up motor vehicles or pedestrians before they are right on top of you

Perception

- ◆ Ability to judge distances e.g. how close an obstacle is
- ◆ Ability to judge speed of the motorised wheelchair, other vehicles and pedestrians

Thought Processes and Memory

- ◆ Ability to remember safety procedures
- ◆ Ability to concentrate for lengthy periods
- ◆ Ability to react quickly for stopping or turning

Feelings and Judgement

- ◆ Ability to stay calm in difficult situations
- ◆ Ability to be patient with other people
- ◆ Ability to make good judgements in protecting your safety and the safety of others

What Else May Affect My Driving Skill?

Feeling tired or unwell may temporarily impair your driving. If you are unsure, leave your motorised wheelchair at home.

Check with your medical practitioner or pharmacist about side effects of any prescription or over the counter medicine you may be taking.

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Do not use your motorised wheelchair if your safe driving may be at risk.

It is an offence to be using your motorised wheelchair when your blood alcohol level is above the maximum allowed by law.

Keeping up your physical fitness with exercise will help with strength, flexibility and mental alertness.

Do I Know Current Road Rules and Keep Up to Date with Changes?

Many road users are not tested on road rules apart from when they sit for their licence.

Knowing what to expect of traffic will make your travel safer. The *Road Users Handbook* is available from any Motor Registry and should be studied.

An extract of the relevant Australian Road Rules for Pedestrians is attached in Appendix A. It should be noted that the Australian Road Rules may be accessed through the Authority's web site - www.rta.nsw.gov.au.

PLANNING A SAFE ROUTE

Where Can I Go with My Motorised Wheelchair?

A motorised wheelchair that falls within the definition of a pedestrian under the Australian Road Rules is permitted on the footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road. Where a footpath is provided, it is recommended you use it.

A motorised wheelchair that falls within the definition of a pedestrian under the Australian Road Rules is also permitted on the road where it is impracticable to travel on the footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road. When travelling along the road you must keep as far to the left or right side of the road as practicable.

Most shopping centres permit motorised wheelchair within their precincts.

Wherever you are driving you must not cause danger or obstruction to any person or vehicle on the roadway or footpath.

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Using Your Motorised Wheelchair Indoors

In general, you can go most places a pedestrian can go. However a motorised wheelchair is faster, heavier and more cumbersome.

Avoid congested areas where possible. Travel slowly.

Not all shops, accessible toilets or other facilities are designed to accommodate motorised wheelchairs. So be prepared to leave your motorised wheelchair outside and walk short distances (if this is applicable to your situation).

What Makes a Safe Route?

Plan a route that allows you to remain on the footpath for the all or most of your journey. Know where there are kerb ramps or driveways you can use for safe road crossings.

If you must be on the road, travel along quieter streets if possible, even if it means a longer journey.

Avoid highways, arterial roads and areas used by heavy vehicles.

Extra care should be taken when crossing at roundabouts.

Check out a new route beforehand if possible, to make sure you can use it with a motorised wheelchair.

Using Access Committees

Your local Council Access Committee may have information on safe routes, location of kerb ramps etc. It would also be interested in your experiences and needs as a motorised wheelchair driver.

Locations you find hazardous should be reported at your local Council. The Council may be able to improve the safety of routes.

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OPERATING YOUR MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR

There is a wide range of motorised wheelchairs available, each suited to a certain range of uses and requirements.

Follow manufacturer instructions for use and maintenance. The following general safety information is also important: -

ALWAYS

- ◆ Turn the key to the OFF position when stopped or when getting on or off your motorised wheelchair.
- ◆ Keep your feet on the floorpad whilst in motion.
- ◆ Lock the seat assembly before moving.
- ◆ Go straight up or down ramps and kerbs, not at an angle.
- ◆ Use caution and travel slowly in congested areas such as busy streets, parking areas and shopping centres.
- ◆ Use caution when riding your motorised wheelchair off the footpath or on rough uneven surfaces.
- ◆ Avoid temporary structures such as wooden platforms or ramps unless you are certain they can withstand the weight of driver and motorised wheelchair.

NEVER

- ◆ Drive your motorised wheelchair with the seat higher than necessary. The lower the seat, the better the stability.
- ◆ Drive your motorised wheelchair diagonally across inclines or make sharp turns at full throttle.
- ◆ Drive your motorised wheelchair with under-inflated tyres; your stability and motorised wheelchair efficiency are greatly affected.
- ◆ Stop on an incline to rest or dismount. The motorised wheelchair may roll or tip on restart.
- ◆ Drive on inclines greater than the rating for your motorised wheelchair model.
- ◆ Allow the motorised wheelchair controls to become wet, wash the motorised wheelchair with a hose, or drive through puddles.

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Safety Extras

- ◆ Purchase and use a safety flag, checking it is high enough above your head to be visible.
- ◆ Think about installing a shade cover if you travel in the sun for long distances. Otherwise always use a hat and sunscreen.
- ◆ Rear view mirrors are safer for checking behind you. Install them and use them.
- ◆ Ensure you have racks to safely carry any parcels or luggage rather than on your lap.
- ◆ Some extras such as rain covers will make it more difficult to see and hear what is going on around you. Only use them when safe to do so.
- ◆ If you use your motorised wheelchair at night, lights and reflectors should be installed. It is recommended the motorised wheelchair displays:
 - 1) a flashing or steady white light(s) that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the front of the motorised wheelchair; and
 - 2) a flashing or steady red light(s) that is clearly visible for at least 200 metres from the rear of the motorised wheelchair; and
 - 3) a red reflector(s) that is clearly visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the motorised wheelchair when light is projected onto it by a vehicle's headlight on low-beam.

Maintenance Checks

- ◆ Check tyre pressures regularly.
- ◆ Charge battery at least weekly if your machine is not in regular use.
- ◆ Ask your supplier for a full maintenance check if you are concerned.

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TRANSPORTING YOUR MOTORISED WHEELCHAIR

Can I Carry My Motorised Wheelchair in a Car?

Some motorised wheelchairs can be dismantled for transporting but in general this entails too much to be convenient for regular use. Some component parts of the motorised wheelchairs are still very heavy.

A battery powered lift, or ramps are available to assist stowing of a motorised wheelchair wheelbase in a station wagon, hatchback or sedan boot. Sufficient space of course, must be available.

A cargo barrier is advised if parts of a motorised wheelchair are to be carried in a station wagon. Any parts should be securely restrained.

How Can I Transport My Motorised Wheelchair Fully Assembled?

Motorised wheelchairs such as scooter type wheelchairs, or wheelchairs with trays, handlebars, etc, in front of the person offer a significantly reduced safety to its occupant when used in a vehicle.

There are two reasons for this:

- 1) The tray, handlebar, etc becomes a hazard and may inflict serious or life threatening head injuries to the seated person, and
- 2) The wheelchair cannot support the loads imposed on it by the restraining system in the event of an accident.

The above two points are reflected in the Australian Standard AS 2942 – 1994 Wheelchair Occupant Restraint Assemblies for Motor Vehicles.

It is for these reasons that it is strongly advised against travelling in a vehicle while still seated in this type of wheelchair. Safety travel is with the rider restrained in a vehicle seat with the standard lap-sash seatbelt.

When motorised wheelchairs users are able to travel in fixed vehicle seats and use the seatbelts provided, the unoccupied wheelchair must be safety secured, or alternatively stowed outside the passenger compartment of the vehicle. When securing an unoccupied wheelchair, it should be in a manner that will resist a force of 25 times the weight of the wheelchair in the forward direction.

Trailers are available that a motorised wheelchair can be driven into and secured, for transporting behind a car. Some vans, with provision of restraints and ramps, may be able to be used to transport motorised wheelchairs.

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Any modifications to accommodate a motorised wheelchair must be in accordance with the Modified Vehicles Code of Practice.

Do Wheelchair Taxis Take Motorised Wheelchairs?

Some taxis designed for wheelchairs can also take a motorised wheelchair, depending on the size and design of the motorised wheelchair, the means of entry into the taxi and seatbelt arrangements to secure both motorised wheelchair and passenger. Check with your local taxi company to ensure that the restraint system is capable of restraining the wheelchair and occupant in question.

CHECKLIST FOR PROSPECTIVE BUYERS

Many people buy motorised wheelchairs to increase their mobility and find new freedom and independence. Others purchase the machines and then find they do not get the benefits they anticipate because of unforeseen limitations in finding safe routes or other access barriers.

The checklist below is designed for people thinking of purchasing a motorised wheelchair, to encourage them to make sure it will do the job required.

Where Do I Want to Go?

- ◆ Will a motorised wheelchairs' range cover the distances involved?
- ◆ Are there footpaths to key destinations?
- ◆ Can I safely cross any roads I need to?
- ◆ If I have to be on the road can I avoid main roads, roundabouts and heavy traffic?
- ◆ Can I take the motorised wheelchair into any shopping centres, shops or other indoor facilities I usually use?
- ◆ Is there somewhere safe to leave the motorised wheelchair outside places where I cannot take it?

How Can I Transport My Motorised Wheelchairs?

- ◆ Do I need to transport my motorised wheelchair in a car?
- ◆ Can I dismantle it and manage the component parts?
- ◆ Can I obtain a trailer to transport the motorised wheelchair on?
- ◆ Will the local taxis take my motorised wheelchair?

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Can I Drive to Protect My Own Safety and That of Others?

Co-ordination and Strength

- ◆ Can I manipulate controls, e.g. turn key, adjust dials, use the accelerator?
- ◆ Can I steer and turn the scooter, even in tight corners?
- ◆ Can I turn my head to look to the side or behind if reversing?

Physical Balance and Endurance

- ◆ Can I maintain balance when travelling across uneven or rough terrain?
- ◆ Can I adjust my body position when travelling up/down inclines, e.g. ramps, driveways?
- ◆ Can I handle different weather conditions if travelling outdoors or long distances?
- ◆ Can I be seated for extended periods?

Vision

- ◆ Can I notice and move around obstacles in all fields of vision?
- ◆ Can I notice moving objects and avoid collisions?
- ◆ Can I notice objects in the periphery of my vision e.g. picking up motor vehicles or pedestrians before they are right on top of me?

Perception

- ◆ Can I judge distances e.g. how close an obstacle is?
- ◆ Can I judge the speed of the scooter, other vehicles and pedestrians?

Thought processes and memory

- ◆ Can I remember safety procedures?
- ◆ Can I concentrate for lengthy periods?
- ◆ Can I react quickly for stopping or turning?

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Feelings and judgement

- ◆ Can I stay calm in difficult situations?
- ◆ Can I be patient with other people?
- ◆ Can I make good judgements in protecting my own safety and the safety of others?

Medication

- ◆ Am I regularly taking medication that may interfere with me using my scooter safely?

Who Can I Ask to Assess My Safety and Driving Abilities?

- ◆ Occupational Therapist
- ◆ Doctor
- ◆ Community Health Worker

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Do I need further information?

If you have further questions the following list of contact organisations may be useful: -

Roads & Traffic Authority
Nearest Motor Registry

Telephone: 13 22 13

Local Council Access Committee
Aged and Disability Worker

Independent Living Centre
PO Box 3163
PUTNEY NSW 2112

Telephone: (02) 9808 2233
1800 800 523
Email: ilcnsw@onaustralia.com.au

Occupational Therapy Department
Local Base Hospital

Aged Care Assessment Team
Local Health Centre

NSW Police Service
Local Police Station

Taxis
Local Taxi Company

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Appendix A - Extract From Australian Road Rules 19 October 1999

Part 14 Rules for pedestrians

Division 1 General

Note 1 For the Australian Road Rules, a pedestrian includes:

- a person driving a motorised wheelchair that cannot travel at over 10 kilometres per hour (on level ground)
- a person in a non-motorised wheelchair
- a person pushing a motorised or non-motorised wheelchair
- a person in or on a wheeled recreational device or wheeled toy (see rule 18).

Note 2 **Wheelchair**, **wheeled recreational device** and **wheeled toy** are defined in the dictionary.

228 No pedestrians signs

A pedestrian must not travel past a *no pedestrians sign*.

Offence provision.

No pedestrians sign



229 Pedestrians on a road with a road access sign

A pedestrian must not be on a length of road to which a *road access sign* applies if information on or with the sign indicates that pedestrians are not permitted beyond the sign.

Offence provision.

Note 1 **Length** of road and **with** are defined in the dictionary.

Note 2 For the way in which a *road access sign* applies, see rule 97. The sign is usually used on a freeway.

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Road access sign



Note 1 for diagram There are a number of other permitted versions of the *road access sign* — see the diagrams in Schedule 3.

Note 2 for diagram The sign may indicate that it applies to different or additional vehicles or persons — see rule 316 (4).

230 Crossing a road — general

- (1) A pedestrian crossing a road:
 - (a) must cross by the shortest safe route; and
 - (b) must not stay on the road longer than necessary to cross the road safely.

Offence provision.

- (2) However, if the pedestrian is crossing the road at an intersection with traffic lights and a *pedestrians may cross diagonally sign*, the pedestrian may cross the road diagonally at the intersection.

Note **Intersection** and **traffic lights** are defined in the dictionary.

- (3) In this rule:

road does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note **Road-related area** is defined in rule 13, and **shoulder** is defined in rule 12.

Pedestrians may cross diagonally sign



Note for diagram There is another permitted version of this sign — see the diagram in Schedule 3.

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231 Crossing a road at pedestrian lights

- (1) A pedestrian approaching or at an intersection, or another place on a road, with pedestrian lights and traffic lights must comply with this rule.

Offence provision.

Note **Intersection**, **pedestrian lights** and **traffic lights** are defined in the dictionary.

- (2) If the pedestrian lights show a red pedestrian light and the pedestrian has not already started crossing the intersection or road, the pedestrian must not start to cross until the pedestrian lights change to green.

Note 1 **Green pedestrian light** and **red pedestrian light** are defined in the dictionary.

Note 2 A traffic control device (including pedestrian lights) generally only applies to a person if the device faces the person — see Part 20, Division 3, especially rule 340.

- (3) If, while the pedestrian is crossing the road, the pedestrian lights change to flashing red or red, the pedestrian must not stay on the road for longer than necessary to cross safely to the nearer (in the direction of travel of the pedestrian) of the following:

- (a) a dividing strip, safety zone, or traffic island, forming part of the area set aside or used by pedestrians to cross the road at the intersection or place (the **safety area**);
- (b) the nearest side of the road.

Note **Dividing strip** and **traffic island** are defined in the dictionary, and **safety zone** is defined in rule 162.

- (4) If, under subrule (3), the pedestrian crosses to the safety area, the pedestrian must remain in the safety area until the pedestrian lights change to green.

- (5) However, if the pedestrian cannot operate the pedestrian lights from the safety area, the pedestrian may cross to the far side of the road when:

- (a) the traffic lights change to green or flashing yellow, or there is no red traffic light showing; and
- (b) it is safe to do so.

Note **Red traffic light** is defined in the dictionary.

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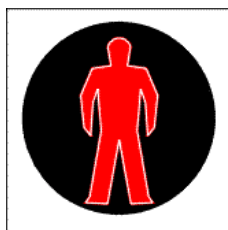
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(6) In this rule:

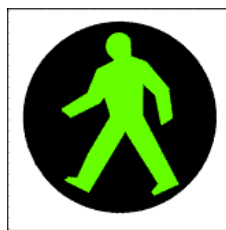
road does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note **Road-related area** is defined in rule 13, and **shoulder** is defined in rule 12.

Red pedestrian light
showing
red pedestrian symbol



Green pedestrian light
showing green pedestrian
symbol



232 Crossing a road at traffic lights

(1) A pedestrian approaching or at an intersection, or another place on a road, with traffic lights, but without pedestrian lights, must comply with this rule.

Offence provision.

Note **Intersection**, **pedestrian lights** and **traffic lights** are defined in the dictionary.

(2) If the traffic lights show a red or yellow traffic light and the pedestrian has not already started crossing the intersection or road, the pedestrian must not start to cross until the traffic lights change to green or flashing yellow, or there is no red traffic light showing.

Note **Green traffic light**, **red traffic light** and **yellow traffic light** are defined in the dictionary.

(3) If, while the pedestrian is crossing the road, the traffic lights change to yellow or red, the pedestrian must not stay on the road for longer than necessary to cross safely to the nearer (in the direction of travel of the pedestrian) of the following:

- (a) a dividing strip, safety zone, or traffic island, forming part of the area set aside or used by pedestrians to cross the road at the intersection or place (the **safety area**);
- (b) the nearest side of the road.

Offence provision.

Note **Dividing strip** and **traffic island** are defined in the dictionary, and **safety zone** is defined in rule 162.

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- (4) If, under subrule (3), the pedestrian crosses to the safety area, the pedestrian must remain in the safety area until the traffic lights change to green or flashing yellow, or there is no red traffic light showing.

Offence provision.

- (5) In this rule:

road does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note **Road-related area** is defined in rule 13, and **shoulder** is defined in rule 12.

233 Crossing a road to or from a tram

- (1) A pedestrian must not cross a road to get on a tram at a tram stop until the tram has stopped at the tram stop.

Offence provision.

Note **Tram** is defined in the dictionary.

- (2) A pedestrian crossing a road after getting off a tram:

- (a) must cross to the nearest footpath by the shortest safe route or, if there is no footpath, cross the road by the shortest safe route; and
- (b) must not stay on the road for longer than necessary to cross the road safely.

Offence provision.

Note **Footpath** is defined in the dictionary.

- (3) This rule does not apply to a pedestrian:

- (a) on a safety zone; or
- (b) crossing a road to or from a safety zone.

Note **Safety zone** is defined in rule 162.

- (4) Subrule (2) does not apply to:

- (a) a pedestrian in a shared zone; or
- (b) an employee of a public transport operator who is in uniform and engaged in carrying out his or her duties.

Note **Shared zone** is defined in rule 24.

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(5) In this rule:

road does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

tram includes a bus travelling along tram tracks.

Note 1 **Bus** and **travelling along tram tracks** are defined in the dictionary, **road-related area** is defined in rule 13, and **shoulder** is defined in rule 12.

Note 2 For the duties of drivers where there are pedestrians getting on or off trams or buses, or in safety zones, see rules 162 to 164.

234 Crossing a road on or near a crossing for pedestrians

(1) A pedestrian must not cross a road, or part of a road, within 20 metres of a crossing on the road, except at the crossing or another crossing, unless the pedestrian is:

- (a) crossing, or helping another pedestrian to cross, an area of the road between tram tracks and the far left side of the road to get on, or after getting off, a tram or public bus; or
- (b) crossing to or from a safety zone; or
- (c) crossing at an intersection with traffic lights and a *pedestrians may cross diagonally sign*; or
- (d) crossing in a shared zone; or
- (e) crossing a road, or a part of a road, from which vehicles are excluded, either permanently or temporarily.

Offence provision.

Note **Intersection**, **public bus**, **traffic lights**, **tram** and **tram tracks** are defined in the dictionary, **safety zone** is defined in rule 162, and **shared zone** is defined in rule 24.

(2) A pedestrian must not stay on a crossing on a road for longer than necessary to cross the road safely.

Offence provision.

(3) Subrule (2) does not apply to a person who is helping pedestrians cross a road at a crossing if the person is permitted to do so under another law of this jurisdiction.

(4) In this rule:

crossing means a children's crossing, marked foot crossing or pedestrian crossing.

Note **Children's crossing** is defined in rule 80, **marked foot crossing** is defined in the dictionary, and **pedestrian crossing** is defined in rule 81.

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Pedestrians may cross diagonally sign



Note for diagram There is another permitted version of this sign — see the diagram in Schedule 3.

235 Crossing a level crossing

- (1) A pedestrian must not cross a railway line, or tram tracks, at a level crossing unless:
 - (a) there is a pedestrian facility at the crossing and the pedestrian uses the facility; or
 - (b) there is no pedestrian facility at, or within 20 metres of, the crossing.

Offence provision.

Note **Level crossing** is defined in rule 120.

- (2) A pedestrian must not cross a railway line, or tram tracks, at a level crossing if:
 - (a) warning lights (for example, twin red lights or rotating red lights) are flashing or warning bells are ringing; or
 - (b) a gate, boom or barrier at the crossing is closed or is opening or closing; or
 - (c) a train or tram is on or entering the crossing; or
 - (d) a train or tram approaching the crossing can be seen from the crossing or is sounding a warning, and there would be a danger of the pedestrian being struck by the train or tram if the pedestrian entered the crossing; or
 - (e) the crossing, or a road beyond the crossing, is blocked.

Offence provision.

Example for paragraph (2) (e)

The crossing, or a road beyond the crossing, may be blocked by congested traffic, a disabled vehicle, a collision between vehicles or between a vehicle and a pedestrian, or by stock on the road.

Note **Enter** and **twin red lights** are defined in the dictionary.

- (3) In this rule:

pedestrian facility means a footpath, bridge or other structure designed for the use of pedestrians.

Note **Footpath** is defined in the dictionary.

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236 Pedestrians not to cause a traffic hazard or obstruction

- (1) A pedestrian must not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver.

Offence provision.

- (2) A pedestrian must not unreasonably obstruct the path of any driver or another pedestrian.

Offence provision.

- (3) For subrule (2), a pedestrian does not unreasonably obstruct the path of another pedestrian only by travelling more slowly than other pedestrians.

237 Getting on or into a moving vehicle

- (1) A person must not get on, or into, a moving vehicle unless:
- (a) the person is engaged in the door-to-door delivery or collection of goods, or in the collection of waste or garbage, and is required to get in or out of the vehicle, or on or off the vehicle, at frequent intervals; and
 - (b) the vehicle is not travelling at a speed over 5 kilometres per hour.

Offence provision.

- (2) This rule does not apply to a person who is getting on or off a bicycle or animal.

Note 1 **Bicycle** is defined in the dictionary.

Note 2 Rule 269 (1) prohibits a person getting off, or out of, a moving vehicle.

238 Pedestrians travelling along a road (except in or on a wheeled recreational device or toy)

- (1) A pedestrian must not travel along a road if there is a footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road, unless it is impracticable to travel on the footpath or nature strip.

Offence provision.

Note **Footpath** and **nature strip** are defined in the dictionary.

- (2) A pedestrian travelling along a road:
- (a) must keep as far to the left or right side of the road as is practicable; and
 - (b) must not travel on the road alongside more than 1 other pedestrian or vehicle travelling on the road in the same direction as the pedestrian, unless the pedestrian is overtaking other pedestrians.

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Offence provision.

(3) In this rule:

pedestrian does not include a person travelling in or on a wheeled recreational device or wheeled toy.

road does not include a road-related area, but includes any shoulder of the road.

Note 1 **Road-related area** is defined in rule 13, **shoulder** is defined in rule 12, and **wheeled recreational device** and **wheeled toy** are defined in the dictionary.

Note 2 Persons travelling on roads in or on wheeled recreational devices or wheeled toys are dealt with in rule 241.

239 Pedestrians on a bicycle path or separated footpath

(1) A pedestrian must not be on bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, unless the pedestrian:

- (a) is crossing the bicycle path or separated footpath by the shortest safe route; and
- (b) does not stay on the bicycle path or separated footpath for longer than necessary to cross the bicycle path or separated footpath safely.

Offence provision.

Note 1 **Bicycle** is defined in the dictionary, and **bicycle path** and **separated footpath** are defined in subrule (4).

Note 2 Rule 336 deals with how parts of a separated footpath are designated for bicycle riders and pedestrians.

(2) However, a pedestrian may be on a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, if:

- (a) the pedestrian is:
 - (i) in or pushing a wheelchair; or
 - (ii) on rollerblades, rollerskates or a similar wheeled recreational device; and
- (b) there is no traffic control device, or information on or with a traffic control device, applying to the bicycle path or separated footpath that indicates that the pedestrian is not permitted to be on the bicycle path or the part of the separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles.

Note 1 **Traffic control device**, **wheelchair**, **wheeled recreational device** and **with** are defined in the dictionary.

Note 2 Rule 243 (2) provides that a person travelling on rollerblades, rollerskates, or a similar wheeled recreational device, on a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, must keep out of the path of any bicycle.

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- (3) A pedestrian who is crossing a bicycle path, or a part of a separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles, must keep out of the path of any bicycle, or any pedestrian who is permitted under subrule (2) to be on the bicycle path, or the part of the separated footpath designated for the use of bicycles.

Offence provision.

- (4) In the Australian Road Rules:

bicycle path means a length of path beginning at a *bicycle path sign* or bicycle path road marking, and ending at the nearest of the following:

- (a) an *end bicycle path sign* or end bicycle path road marking;
- (b) a *separated footpath sign* or separated footpath road marking;
- (c) a road (except a road-related area);
- (d) the end of the path.

Note **Road-related area** is defined in rule 13.

bicycle path road marking means a road marking on a path, consisting of a bicycle symbol, the words 'bicycles only', or both the bicycle symbol and the word 'only'.

Note **Bicycle symbol** is defined in the dictionary.

end bicycle path road marking means a bicycle path road marking with the word 'end'.

end separated footpath road marking means a separated footpath road marking with the word 'end'.

separated footpath means a length of footpath beginning at a *separated footpath sign* or separated footpath road marking, and ending at the nearest of the following:

- (a) an *end separated footpath sign* or end separated footpath road marking;
- (b) a *bicycle path sign* or bicycle path road marking;
- (c) a *no bicycles sign* or no bicycles road marking;
- (d) a road (except a road-related area);
- (e) the end of the footpath.

Note **Footpath** and **no bicycles road marking** are defined in the dictionary.

separated footpath road marking means a road marking on a footpath consisting of a pedestrian symbol and a bicycle symbol side by side, with or without the word 'only'.

Note **Pedestrian symbol** is defined in the dictionary.

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Bicycle path sign



End bicycle path sign



Separated footpath sign



End separated footpath sign



No bicycles sign



Note 1 for diagrams There are a number of other permitted versions of the *bicycle path sign* and the *end bicycle path sign*, and another permitted version of each of the other signs — see the diagrams in Schedule 3.

Note 2 for diagrams A *separated footpath sign* may have the pedestrian symbol and the bicycle symbol reversed — see rule 316 (4).