

PART E - Other road users

- Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists
 - Pedestrians and drivers
 - Cyclists and drivers
 - Parking and cyclists
 - Coloured Bicycle Lanes
- Road Rules for Cyclists
 - Bicycle helmets
 - Helmet standards
 - Equipment on a bicycle
 - Riding at night
 - Optional hook turn
 - Buying a helmet
 - Giving way on a roundabout
 - Cycle Paths
- Horse traffic and drivers
- Motorcyclists and drivers
- Sharing the road with trucks and buses
 - Looking out for heavy vehicles
 - Oversize vehicles
 - Looking out for turning heavy vehicles
 - Sharing the road with dangerous loads
 - Sharing the road with local services buses
 - Bus priority traffic signals
 - Giving way to buses
 - Transit lanes
- Emergency vehicles

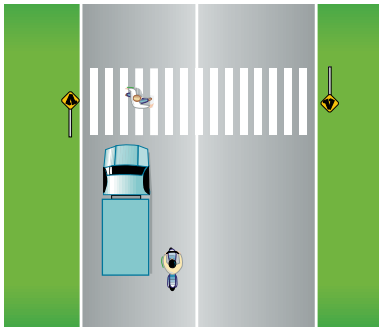
Pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse traffic

Roads are not just for drivers. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists also use the roads.

Pedestrians and drivers

Watch for pedestrians:

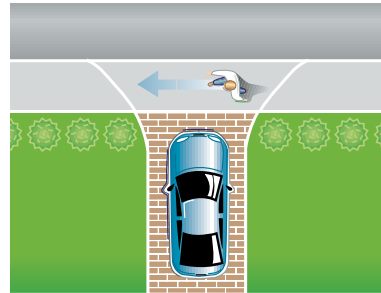
- near shopping centres and other busy places, where there is a greater chance of people crossing the road
- near schools, particularly when children are arriving or leaving
- whenever you see children walking or playing
- where there are parked cars or stopped buses
- when approaching school zones
- at and near pedestrian crossings.



Do not overtake another vehicle at a pedestrian or school crossing. That driver may be stopped or stopping for a pedestrian you cannot see.



At traffic lights turning vehicles must give way to crossing pedestrians.



You must give way to pedestrians when you are leaving private property such as driveways, or car parks, shopping centres and service stations.

If you cannot see whether anyone is coming, sound your horn and then drive out very slowly.

If you are a pedestrian walking along a road that does not have a footpath, you should walk on the right hand edge of the road facing oncoming traffic.

Cyclists and drivers

Motorists must take care and show consideration when sharing the roads with cyclists, **who have the same legal rights and obligations as other road users.**

Although Canberra has cycle paths, it is not compulsory for cyclists to use them.

There are no roads in the ACT from which cyclists are excluded.

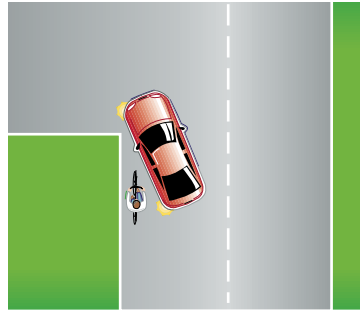
Cyclists are very vulnerable in traffic. They have little protection in the event of a collision and this places more responsibility on the motorist.

Information on Safe Cycling in the ACT can be found on the ACT Road Transport website. The website can be found at www.transport.act.gov.au select "Road Safety" and then "Bicycle Safety".



Motorists should exercise care when:

- overtaking cyclists - leave plenty of room in case they need to avoid a rough surface or obstacle on the road;
- overtaking other vehicles - watch for any oncoming cyclists. Wait until they have passed before you overtake;
- negotiating intersections at the same time as cyclists - slow down and allow cyclists to negotiate intersections in safety;
- children are riding - watch out for children on bicycles because they are not always aware of the road rules and their riding is sometimes erratic;



This driver is not sharing the road

- driving at night - look for reflectors on bicycle wheels or pedals, not just headlights or tail lights. It is illegal to ride a bicycle at night without lights but it does happen, so a reflector may be the first thing you will see.

Parking and cyclists

Check your rear vision mirror and look over your shoulder for cyclists and other motor vehicles before opening the vehicle door. Remember, cyclists generally travel close to the left hand side of the road.

Where a cycle path crosses a street, the crossing is marked by signs. Cyclists are required to give way to all traffic on the roadway and cross only when it is safe to do so.

Coloured bicycle lanes

Coloured bicycle lanes at intersections are to remind drivers that this section of the roadway is a travel lane for bicycle riders. The marking highlights the existence of the 'bicycle lane' to motorists and the 'right of way' legally provided to the cyclist by a 'bicycle lane'. Therefore, where a motorist sees a green coloured area at an

intersection, he or she must be on the lookout for cyclists as always. If a cyclist is on a bicycle lane the **motorist must give way**.

While the coloured bicycle lane alerts motorists to cyclist's 'right of way', the bicycle rider also needs to be vigilant, as these areas pose a much higher risk of collision. The fact that the coloured bicycle lane gives a cyclist 'right of way' does not necessarily mean that it will be granted. Cyclists are often difficult to see in adverse conditions and are extremely vulnerable, so as a cyclist, it is far better to be prepared to give way than to have a collision.

Road rules for cyclists



The following road rules for cyclists have been accepted nationally and are a combination of the previous ACT regulations and the Australian Road Rules.

Riding in a bicycle lane on a road

The rider of a bicycle riding on a length of road with a bicycle lane designed for bicycles travelling in the same direction as the vehicle traffic must ride in the bicycle lane unless it is impracticable to do so.

No riding across a road on a crossing

The rider of a bicycle must not ride across a road, or part of a road, on a school crossing or pedestrian crossing. You may only ride across a road, or part of a road, at a marked foot crossing if there are bicycle crossing lights showing a green light.

Riding two abreast

On certain roads, cyclists are permitted to ride two abreast. However, this practice may not necessarily be the safest option. Common sense must prevail.

Riding on a footpath or shared path

The rider of a bicycle riding on a footpath or shared path must:

- keep to the left of the footpath or shared path unless it is impracticable to do so; and
- give way to any pedestrian on the footpath or shared path.

Bicycle riders not to cause a traffic hazard

The rider of a bicycle must not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver or pedestrian.

Riding too close to the rear of a motor vehicle

The rider of a bicycle must not ride within 2 metres of the rear of a moving motor vehicle continuously for more than 200 metres.

The rider of a bicycle must wear an approved bicycle helmet securely fitted and fastened on the rider's head, unless the rider is exempt from wearing a bicycle helmet under another law of this jurisdiction.

Bicycle Helmets



Helmet Standards

When buying a helmet choose one that has been certified by Standards Australia. These helmets have been carefully tested and are very safe.

You can easily recognise them. Just look for this sticker on the helmet:



Equipment on a bicycle

A person must not ride a bicycle that does not have:

- at least 1 effective brake; and
- a bell, horn, or similar warning device, in working order.

Riding at night

At night and in reduced visibility conditions you must display:

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

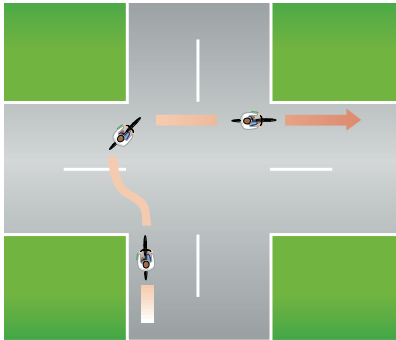
Optional hook turn by a bicycle rider

To make a hook turn:

- approach and enter the intersection from as near as practicable to the far left side of the road that you are leaving;
- move forward:
 - keeping as near as possible to the far left side of the intersection;
 - keeping clear of any marked foot crossing; and
 - keeping clear, as far as practicable, of any driver turning left from the left of the intersection;

until you are as near as practicable to the far side of the road that you are entering.

- if there are traffic lights at the intersection, remain at the position reached under step 2, until the traffic lights on the road that you are entering change to green.
- if there are no traffic lights at the intersection, remain at the position reached under step 2, until you have given way to approaching drivers on the road that you are leaving.
- turn right into the road that you are entering.



Bicycle rider making a hook turn at an intersection without traffic lights

Giving way by the rider of a bicycle or animal to a vehicle leaving a roundabout

If you are riding in the far left marked lane of a roundabout with 2 or more marked lanes, or the far left line of traffic in a roundabout with 2 or more lines of traffic, you must give way to any vehicle leaving the roundabout.

Cycle Paths

The use of bicycle paths is generally restricted to non-motorised traffic, including bicycles, pedestrians, joggers and motorised wheelchairs.

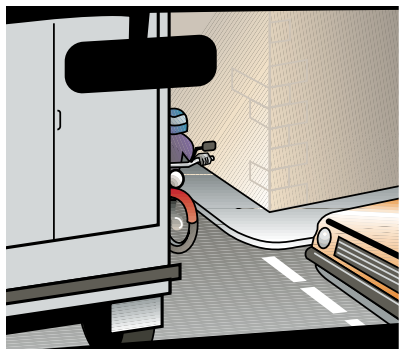
- Keep to the left of any white centre line that may be on the path.
- Bicycles do NOT have the sole right to use cycle paths. You must give way to any pedestrians.
- If approaching pedestrians from behind, ring your bell to let them know you are coming, slow down as you pass and give them right of way.

Motorcyclists and drivers

Motorcycle riders are over represented in fatal crashes in the ACT.

Drivers should be aware that motorcyclists often position their bikes on the right tyre track of the vehicle ahead because the rider:

- avoids the oil slick formed in the centre of the lane.
- can see oncoming vehicles better.
- knows oncoming drivers can see the rider better.
- can use the full lane he/she is entitled to, discouraging motorists from crowding into the lane.
- knows the driver ahead can probably see the motorcycle in the rear vision mirror.



NOTE: *Pre-Learner Licence motorcycle rider training courses are compulsory. They are designed to help novice riders master the basic skills of riding. For further information contact the ACT Road User Services Office at Dickson or any Canberra Connect Shopfront.*

Horse traffic and drivers

Canberra has a high rate of horse ownership. Horses are easily startled by:

- noise – do not speed, sound your horn, use airbrakes or call out. In particular, motorcycle noise frightens horses;
- crowding – drive slowly, give horses plenty of room and be prepared to stop if necessary.

Sharing the road with large vehicles

Looking out for heavy vehicles

Trucks and buses play an important role carrying goods and passengers; they are an essential part of our everyday lives. Most heavy vehicle drivers are professionals and will treat other road users with care and courtesy. In turn, you must treat heavy vehicle drivers with respect. Large trucks and buses often weigh 20 times as much as an ordinary car. They take much longer to stop and cannot manoeuvre as easily as cars. If you crash into a heavy vehicle or bus, you may not survive.

Oversize vehicles

OVERSIZE

If you see this sign, the vehicle ahead is wider than normal, longer than normal, or both.

Sometimes an oversize vehicle may be accompanied by the Police or a pilot vehicle (escort vehicle with flashing lights) to warn traffic that the load following is very wide or very long. You should follow any directions given by the Police or the pilot vehicle.

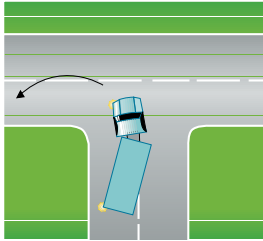
When approaching an oncoming oversize vehicle, you should reduce speed and be prepared to move to the left side of the road. You must be careful and keep left of the centre line if the vehicle is coming toward you. You should use extreme care when overtaking an oversize vehicle.

Looking out for turning heavy vehicles



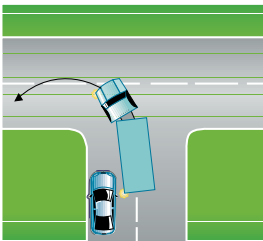
DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE

Long vehicles displaying a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign may use more than one lane when turning left or right.



Heavy vehicle using two lanes

When a long vehicle with a DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE sign is turning, you must not pass on the left or the right of the vehicle. You need to be careful when any large, long vehicles are turning. If you put your vehicle between the turning vehicle and the kerb you may be crushed.



Do not put your car between the kerb and the large vehicle

Large trucks and buses use more road space and take longer to negotiate roundabouts. You should stop and allow these vehicles easy passage through roundabouts and intersections.

Dangerous loads

Many trucks carry loads which are dangerous and which can catch fire, or which may be explosive, corrosive or radioactive. If one of these trucks is involved in a crash, many lives can be put at risk. There are Emergency Information Panels on the back and each side of these vehicles with information about what they are carrying.

PETROLEUM FUEL UN No. 1270		
HAZ CHEM 3YE		
IN EMERGENCY DIAL 000 POLICE or FIRE BRIGADE		SERVICE ADVICE XYZ PETROLEUM LTD PHONE: 111222

An Emergency Procedures Guide should be in a holder attached to the driver's door. Follow these procedures if you need to.

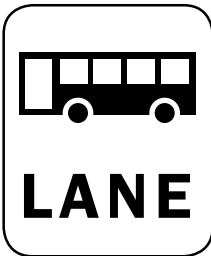
If you come across a crash involving a vehicle with a dangerous load, call the Police or Fire Brigade on 000. Try not to touch spilled chemicals or breathe the fumes or dust. Tell bystanders to keep away from the crash.

Buses



There are four major bus interchanges in the ACT. When driving in the vicinity of bus interchanges and bus stops, remember:

- drivers of private vehicles are not permitted to enter interchange areas;
- to obey all signs relating to the interchanges;
- to watch for bus and pedestrian movement;
- apart from buses, only taxis, hire cars and motorcycles may use bus lanes without restriction. A limit of 100 metres applies to all other vehicles, for purposes such as entering or leaving a road;



- buses frequently stop to pick up passengers. Watch for pedestrians, especially children and the elderly, in the vicinity of bus stops;
- be prepared to give way to buses pulling out from the kerb;

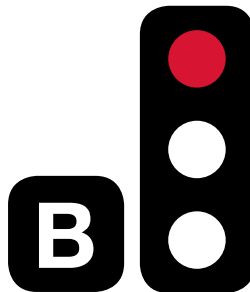


- when travelling behind buses on suburban streets, to be prepared for them to stop frequently;
- to take care when overtaking buses because of their extra length;



Bus priority traffic signals

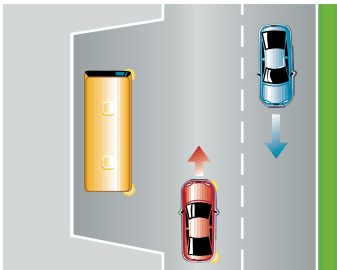
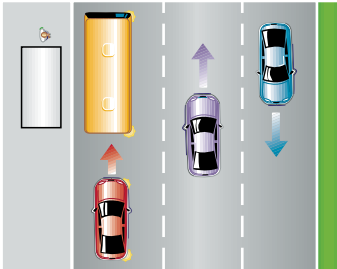
These lights operate at selected intersections to permit buses to move off while other traffic is held by a red light.



Giving way to buses

When approaching a stationary bus from behind and the bus displays a Give Way to Buses sign and is indicating its intention to pull out from the kerb, you **MUST** slow down or stop to allow the bus to enter the line of traffic.

The rule does not apply if the road or street is divided into multiple traffic lanes travelling in the same direction and you are not driving in the lane that is furthest to the left.

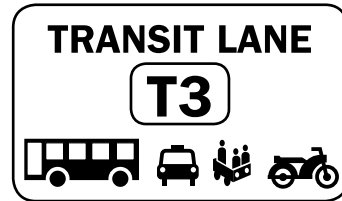


Transit lanes

Drivers should be aware that transit lanes are for use by high occupancy and other authorised vehicles during the hours and days displayed on the signs. The lanes may be used by all traffic outside those times.

During the restricted hours, transit lanes can only be used by buses, taxis, motorcycles and hire cars. Motor vehicles with three or more occupants can travel in a transit lane, if the transit lane sign applying to the transit lane is a transit lane T3 sign.

Unauthorised drivers in a Transit Lane face a fine and loss of Demerit Points.



Examples of transit lane signs

Emergency vehicles

Police and other emergency vehicles such as fire engines and ambulances are usually equipped with warning devices such as flashing lights and sirens.

When a police or emergency vehicle approaches sounding a warning or flashing its lights, drivers of other vehicles must clear a passage. This could mean stopping to let it pass or moving out of the way. You must also give police and emergency vehicles every opportunity to overtake safely.

These requirements take priority over every other road rule.

