

RAA Member Panel

Roundabout Road Rules

This member panel focused on how the Member Panel uses roundabouts in South Australia and interacts with other road users. The survey included different roundabout shapes and designs and looked at your attitudes towards the Britannia and Blackwood roundabouts.

Although not all respondents in this Member Panel selected the correct answer according to the Australian Road Rules, many answered based on a common sense approach and would act cautiously when presented with an unusual scenario or roundabout.

Roundabout manoeuvres

Entering roundabouts can be difficult for many motorists, as people use their indicators differently. This survey revealed that 74 per cent of the Member Panel would correctly use their left and right indicators when turning right in a roundabout, but only 63 per cent would **only** use this method.

Dual-lane roundabouts often have many vehicles manoeuvring around them concurrently, so entering and exiting in the correct lane is essential to avoid collisions. Only 46 per cent correctly selected when turning right in a dual-lane roundabout, you must enter and exit in the same lane. 61 per cent correctly indicated that when travelling straight through a dual-lane roundabout you must also enter and exit in the same lane.

Certain rules apply to motorists when entering and exiting a roundabout, but sometimes rules for cyclists are different and motorists should be aware of that. More than half (51 per cent) of the Member Panel knew it was legal for a cyclist in a dual-lane roundabout to turn right in the left lane, with the remaining 49 per cent unaware or unsure.

Interacting with other road users

Roundabouts often bring different road users in close proximity. 74 per cent of the Member Panel correctly indicated that they wait behind a semi-trailer when it is in the left lane at a roundabout but indicating to turn right. Fifty seven per cent correctly indicated they would expect a car in a slip lane entering their lane after a roundabout to give way to them. Seventy four per cent would enter a roundabout but slow down if another car had entered the roundabout ahead of them.

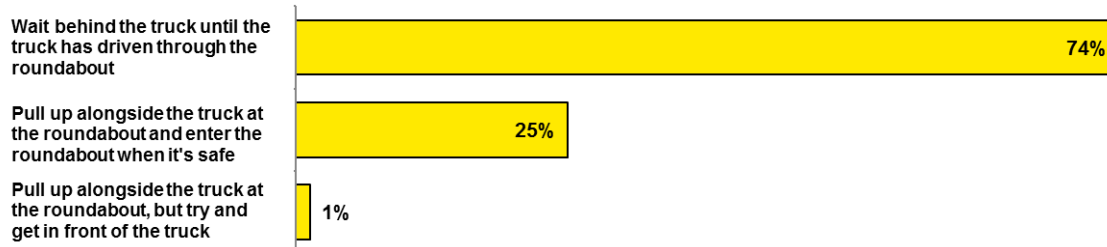
Interacting with vulnerable road users was also tested in this survey. Ninety four per cent of the Member Panel would wait for a cyclist to move into a roundabout before turning left. Many provided additional comments on this issue, stating that the cyclist should also show common sense and realise that motorists may not always see them.

Britannia and Blackwood roundabouts

Members often say they avoid certain roundabouts, which is why the Member Panel was asked about the Britannia and Blackwood roundabouts. Seventy seven per cent had used the Britannia roundabout in the last 12 months, of which 14 per cent would avoid the Britannia roundabout in the future. Forty two per cent had used the Blackwood roundabout in the last 12 months and, of these motorists, only 6 per cent would avoid it in the future.

Appendix: Key Results

In the image below, you are the orange car (A). You are approaching a roundabout in the right lane to turn right, when you notice a semi-trailer (B) ahead of you. They are in the left lane indicating to turn right. Are you most likely to...



Correct Answer: Option 1 – Wait behind the truck until the truck has driven through the roundabout

RAA Comment: Due to their length and size, it is physically difficult for a semi-trailer to complete a turn within a designated lane. Although not indicated in this question, semi-trailers should display a “do not overtake turning vehicle” sign on the rear of the trailer. If motorists find themselves in the same scenario as above and are not sure if this sign appears on the rear of the semi-trailer, it is safest to assume it does.

Australian Road Rules: There are two Australian Road Rules relevant to a passenger vehicle approaching with intent to pass a long vehicle, ARR32 (2) and ARR143 (2).

ARR32 (2) – A driver of a long vehicle (7.5m or longer), displaying a “do not overtake turning vehicle” sign, is able to occupy and turn right from the next marked lane if that can be done safely and it is not practicable for the driver to turn right from the right lane.

ARR143 (2) – A driver must not drive past or overtake to the right of a vehicle displaying a “do not overtake turning vehicle” sign if the vehicle is turning right and is giving a right change of direction signal, unless it is safe to do so.

Which of the four scenarios below shows the correct use of signals when you enter a roundabout at position A and exit the roundabout at position B?



Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

Image 1: Signal RIGHT, then turn your signals OFF.

21%

Image 2: Signal RIGHT, then signal LEFT.

74%

Image 3: Signal RIGHT, then keep signalling RIGHT.

16%

Image 4: Don't use any signals when turning right.

1%

Correct Answer: Image 2 – When turning right in a roundabout you must indicate right when entering the roundabout and indicate left when leaving the roundabout

RAA's Comment: Although 74% of panellists selected Image 2 correctly, only 63% correctly selected Image 2 as the only correct answer.

Australian Road Rules: Use of indicators involves ARR112, ARR113 and ARR118.

ARR112 (1) – If the driver entering a roundabout intends to leave the roundabout at the first exit and that exit is less than half way around the roundabout.

ARR112 (2) – **Before entering** the round about the driver **must** give a left change of direction signal for long enough to give sufficient warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

ARR113 (1) – If the driver entering a roundabout intends to leave the roundabout more than halfway around it.

ARR113 (2) – Before entering the roundabout the driver must give a right change of direction signal for long enough to give sufficient warning to other drivers and pedestrians.

It is slightly different when leaving the roundabout.

ARR118 (1) – **If practicable** a driver driving in a roundabout must give a left change of direction signal when leaving the roundabout.

You are approaching the dual-lane roundabout below at position A and want to turn right and exit the roundabout at position B. Select the images below that have the correct routes to enter and exit this roundabout.

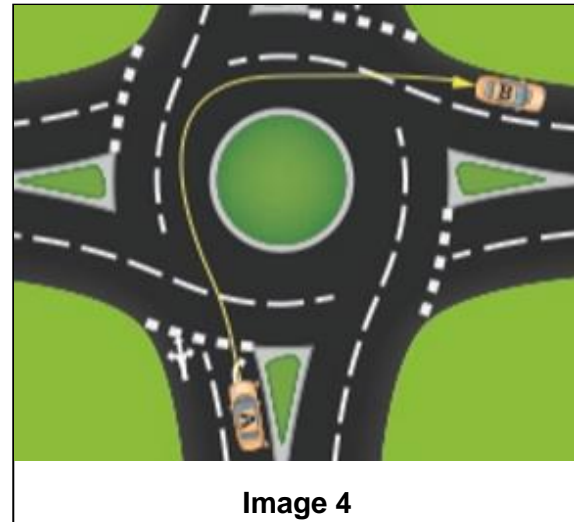
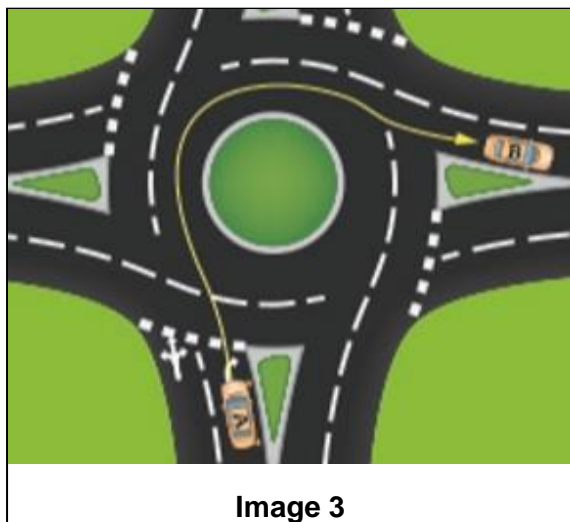
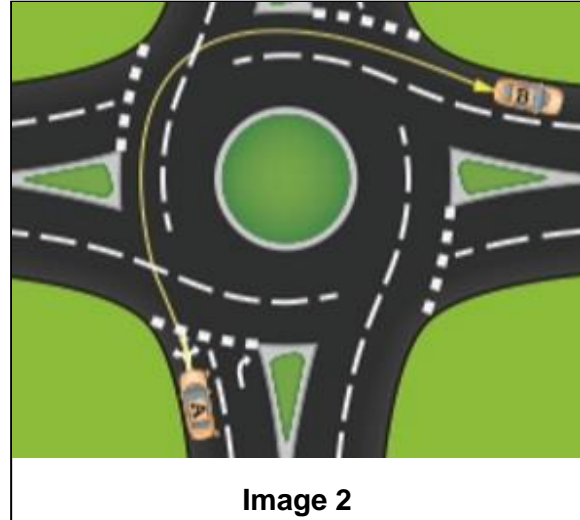
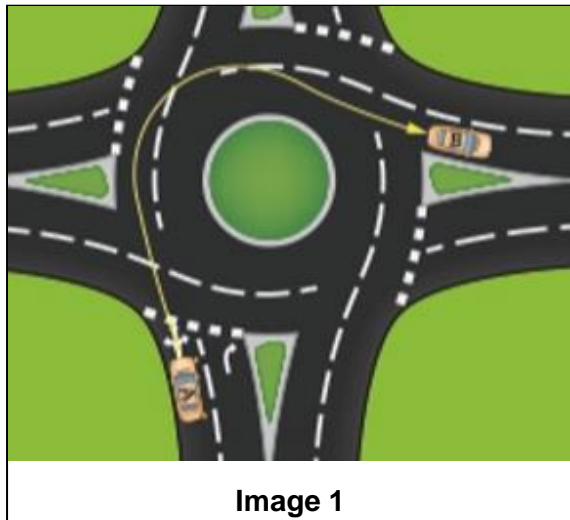


Image 1: Enter in the LEFT lane.
Exit in the RIGHT lane.

2%

Image 2: Enter in the LEFT lane.
Exit in the LEFT lane.

56%

Image 3: Enter in the RIGHT lane.
Exit in the RIGHT lane.

90%

Image 4: Enter in the RIGHT lane.
Exit in the LEFT lane.

5%

Correct Answers: Image 2 and Image 3 – In this scenario, the road markings allow a turn right from both lanes in the dual roundabout, but motorists enter and leave in the same lane

RAA Comment: Although 56% of panellists selected Image 2 and 90% selected Image 3, only 46% correctly selected **both** Image 2 and 3 as correct in this scenario.

Australian Road Rules: Multi lane roundabouts are governed under ARR111.

ARR111 dictates that drivers in the left lane at a multi-lane roundabout can turn left or go straight ahead and drivers in the right lane can go straight ahead or turn right. However, **ARR111 (5)** states that if traffic lane arrows apply to the lanes, the drivers can drive in any of the directions indicated.

The images below outline how a motorist travels straight through a dual-lane roundabout at position A and exits at position B. Select the images below that show the correct route to enter and exit this roundabout.

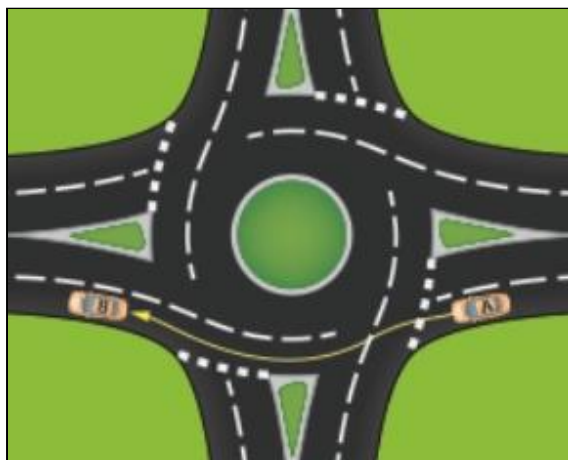


Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4

Image 1: Stay in the LEFT lane.

96%

Image 2: Travel the shortest distance in the roundabout.

2%

Image 3: Stay in the RIGHT lane.

65%

Image 4: Enter in the LEFT Lane. Exit in the RIGHT lane.

2%

Correct Answers: Image 1 and Image 3 – Vehicles should enter and exit in the same lane and remain within their lane when driving through a roundabout

RAA Comments: Although 96% of panellists selected Image 1 and 65% selected Image 3, only 61% correctly selected **both** Image 1 and 3 as correct in this scenario.

Australian Road Rules: Driving in specific lanes is covered by ARR146 (1).

ARR146 (1) – Drivers are required to drive in their own lane, and can only move from one lane to another after giving adequate warning of their intention and giving way to any vehicle in the lane that the driver wants to enter. This does not change when driving in a roundabout and drivers should be following their lane lines in and out of a roundabout.

You are at position A and want to exit the roundabout at position B. As you reach the roundabout, the road becomes two lanes. In the image below would you select lane 1 or lane 2 to eventually exit the roundabout at position B?



Lane 1

94%

Lane 2

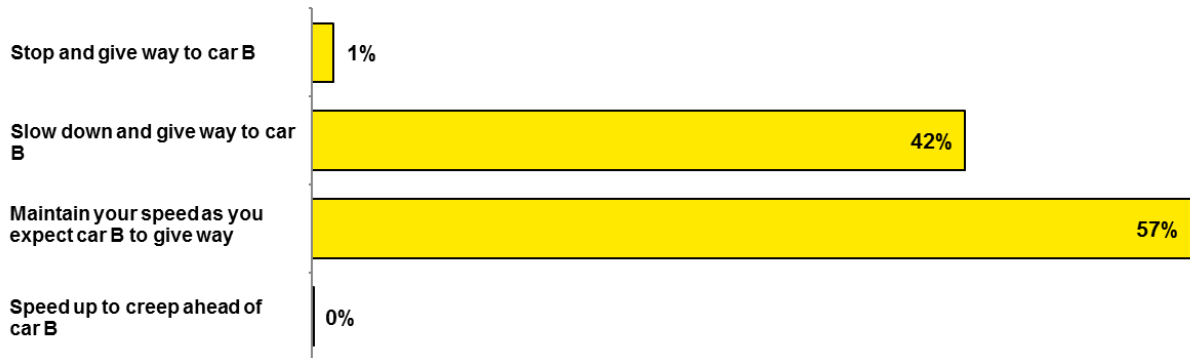
6%

Correct Answer: Option 1 – Lane 1

RAA Comment: In this scenario, Lane 2 would be incorrect as it only turns right at the roundabout, whereas Lane 1 can turn left, straight and right.

Australian Road Rules: The road rules relevant to this scenario have been explained above. In this situation, with these road markings, one would expect a warning sign on approaching the roundabout, 'Right Lane – Right Turn Only'.

You are the orange car (A) in the image below. You have just exited the roundabout and notice the blue car (B) approaching in the slip lane. What are you most likely to do?



Correct Answer: Option 3 – Maintain your speed as you expect car B to give way

RAA Comment: Regardless of the roundabout, motorists in a slip lane (car B) entering traffic must give way to all vehicles.

Australian Road Rules: Turning left using a slip lane is referenced in ARR72 (4).

ARR72 (4) – Requires a driver turning left using a slip lane to give way to any vehicle approaching from the right or turning right at the intersections into the road the driver is entering. A roundabout is considered an intersection.

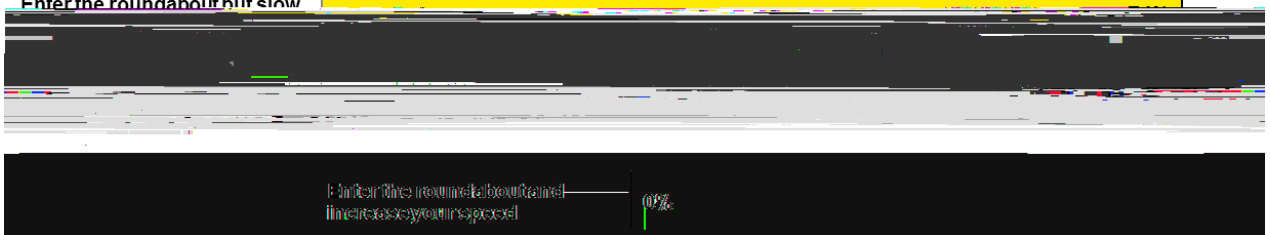
You are car A in the image below. As you approach the roundabout you slow down a little, but realise you don't need to give way to your right as there is no approaching traffic. Car B was stopped at the roundabout but has since entered the roundabout very slowly. Do you...



Stop before entering the roundabout and give way to car B

23%

Enter the roundabout but slow



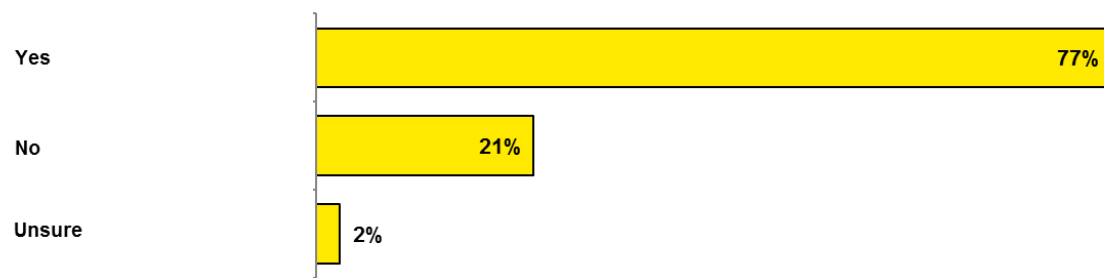
Correct Answer: Option 2 – Enter the roundabout but slow down

RAA Comment: The requirement to give way does not always mean a driver has to stop at a roundabout, but they should slow sufficiently to be able to stop when there is a vehicle on the roundabout.

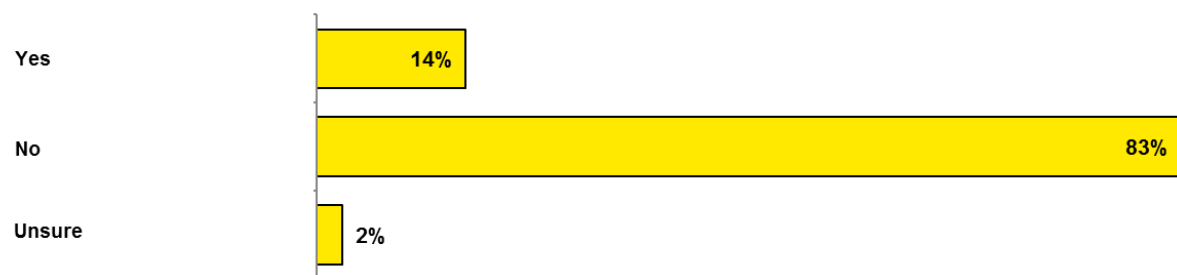
Australian Road Rules: ARR114 clarifies this situation.

ARR114 – A driver entering a roundabout must give way to any vehicle in the roundabout. Car A does not have to stop, but must ensure it gives way to car B and allows it to proceed unimpeded.

The Britannia roundabout is located on the fringe of Adelaide's CBD and is one of the most talked about roundabouts in South Australia. Have you driven through the Britannia roundabout in the last 12 months?



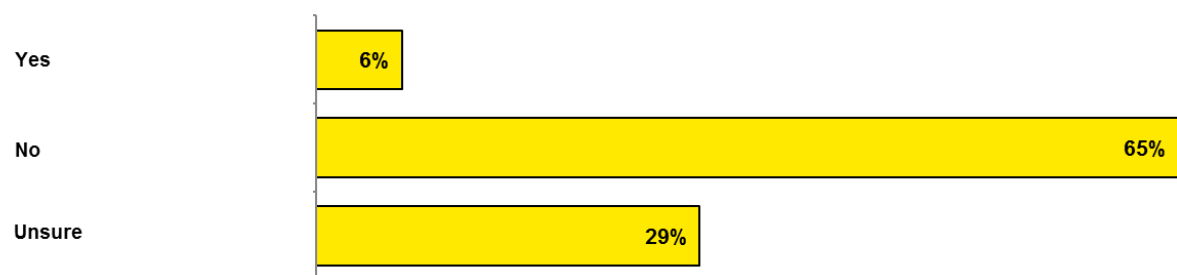
As you've driven through the Britannia roundabout in the last 12 months, would you avoid driving through it in the future?



Have you driven through the Blackwood roundabout in the last 12 months?



As you've driven through the Blackwood roundabout in the last 12 months, would you avoid driving through it in the future?



You are car A and are about to turn left. However, you've stopped at the roundabout to give way to car B. A cyclist has appeared on the road alongside you. When car B is clear, what are you most likely to do?



Wait for the cyclist to move before turning left

94%

Ignore the cyclist and turn left as you were at the roundabout before the cyclist

6%

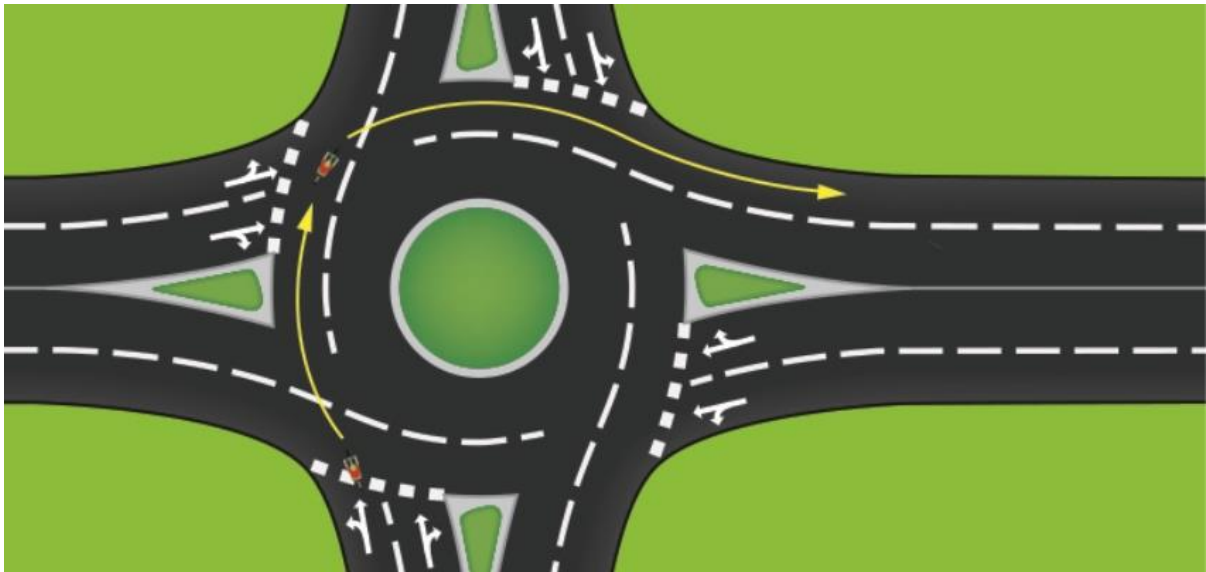
Correct Answer: Option 1 – Wait for the cyclist to move before turning left

RAA Comment: Regardless of who arrived at the roundabout first, car A must wait for the cyclist to move before turning left.

Australian Road Rules: There are two relevant sections in the legislation for this situation, AAR141 (1) and ARR142.

ARR141 (1) allows a cyclist to overtake a vehicle on the left. However, **ARR142** states that the cyclist must not ride past or overtake to the left of a vehicle that is turning left and is giving a left change of direction signal. In this graphic, the vehicle is indicating but has not begun to turn and therefore gives way to the cyclist.

The image below shows a cyclist turning right at this roundabout from the left lane. Can a cyclist legally complete this manoeuvre at a roundabout in South Australia?



Yes

51%

No

23%

Unsure

26%

Correct Answer: Option 1 – Yes

RAA Comment: In South Australia a cyclist can turn right from the left lane at a roundabout. Ideally, motorists and cyclists should show caution and common sense when faced with this same scenario.

Australian Road Rules: Interactions with cyclists and vehicles can be confusing, with two Australian Road Rules applying in this situation.

Cyclists are not required to obey **ARR111**, which covers entering a roundabout from a specific lane. However, **ARR119** requires a cyclist using the left lane of a multi-lane roundabout to give way to vehicles leaving the roundabout.

The images below show a pedestrian about to walk across the road. You are in car A, but you enter the roundabout at a different position in each image. In which image(s) would you need to give way to the pedestrian?

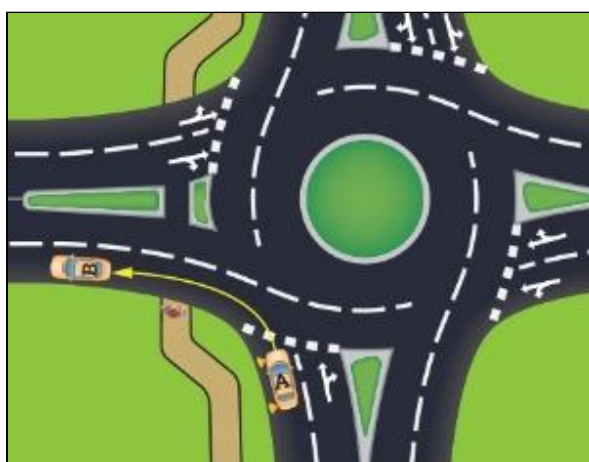


Image 1



Image 2



Image 3

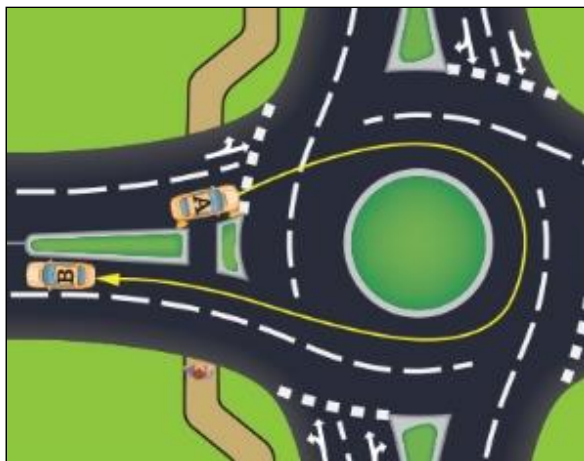


Image 4

Image 1: Give way when turning LEFT.

71%

Image 2: Give way when turning RIGHT.

22%

Image 3: Give way when traveling STRAIGHT.

20%

Image 4: Give way when doing a U-TURN shaped manoeuvre.

21%

Correct Answers: Image 1 and Image 2 – Give way when turning left or right

RAA Comment: Although 71% of panellists selected Image 1 and 22% selected Image 2, only 3% correctly selected **both** Image 1 and 2 as correct in this scenario. Pedestrians also need to be aware of this and understand when they have to give way to traffic.

Australian Road Rules: It would appear that in other states the pedestrian must give way at roundabouts. However, in South Australia the current legislation is silent on this issue and we are seeking clarification from the government.