



Sharing the road with cyclists

Bicycles are becoming an increasingly common sight on our roads. What do we need to do as drivers to ensure that we're all sharing the road safely?

The law states that motorists:

- Allow at least a metre when overtaking a cyclist on a road with a speed limit of 60km/h or less, and one and a half metres when overtaking a cyclist on a road with a speed limit of over 60km/h.
- Can legally cross over a single or double solid white line, or painted median, in order to overtake a cyclist or cyclists. This is provided that the motorist has a clear view of the road ahead, there is no oncoming traffic, and they leave the minimum overtaking clearance as outlined in the bullet point above.
- Cannot stop or park in bike lanes when they're in operation. Bike lanes are operational at all times, unless signs indicate otherwise.
- Entering and exiting driveways must give way to cyclists and pedestrians. Be aware that cyclists could be riding on the footpath.
- Turning left to enter or leave a road, must give way to cyclists riding in bike lanes. Where there is no bike lane, the cyclist must give way to a vehicle that's indicating to turn left and has already commenced its turn.
- Can enter a bike lane in certain conditions, such as when they're entering or leaving a road, or to avoid a vehicle turning right or making a U-turn. Motorists cannot travel in a bike lane for more than 50 metres.
- Must not stop their vehicles in bike boxes, which are marked areas at intersections where cyclists wait for the signals to change. Where there are bike boxes, motorists must allow cyclists to move off first when the lights change.
- Must always check for cyclists (and other vehicles) before opening the door, and ensure that passengers do the same, particularly where there are marked bike lanes.
- Attaching a bike rack to a motor vehicle, must ensure that the rack and any bike on the rack doesn't obscure the vehicle's rear number plate. We recommend attaching an approved number plate to the rack so that the registration number is visible when bikes are being carried.

The South Australian Road Traffic Act and the Road Traffic Regulations (including the Australian Road Rules) define the rules and responsibilities for all road users.

This legislation can be found at www.legislation.sa.gov.au.

We're here to help

Call RAA's road safety team on 8202 4570, email motoringroadrules@raa.com.au or visit raa.com.au/roadsafety