

fact sheet | stock on the road



If you're driving in regional South Australia, particularly on quieter back roads, it is possible that you might come across a farmer moving livestock. If you've never come across stock on a road before, you might not know what to do to pass the animals safely. It can be a potentially hazardous situation, as animals are unpredictable, so it is important for motorists to slow down and take extra care.

What to look out for

When travelling along roads in regional areas, motorists need to be aware of any temporary signage signs they see along the side of the road. These signs are put in place to warn other road users that there will be stock on or near a road. The recommended sign to use has the words 'STOCK ON ROAD' in bold black letters on a fluorescent red/orange background (Figure 1). An orange flag may also be used to improve the visibility of the signs.

The 'STOCK ON ROAD' sign will normally be displayed about 250 metres from where the stock will be on the road, giving you enough time to adjust your speed. Upon seeing such a sign, motorists must slow down to a speed which will enable them to avoid hitting any animals.

In some cases there will be permanent warning signs (Figure 2). These signs are used to indicate that:

- Stock is moved across or along a section of road on a daily basis
- The road is unfenced and the stockowner can show that a crossing point is regularly used by wandering stock

In these circumstances, motorists are advised to slow down and look out for any wandering animals.

How do I drive through livestock?

Where livestock are on or beside the road, motorists must travel at a speed that will allow them to safely stop if an animal were to suddenly move in the path of the vehicle.

If an animal, or group of animals, is on the road in front of you, brake slowly and try to pass smoothly allowing room if possible between the vehicle and livestock behind. If there is someone conducting a stock crossing, who has management and control of the moving stock, follow their advice. They might suggest that you can slowly pass the animals to one side of the road.

Do not increase your speed until you have safely passed all of the animals on the road.

Things to remember

- Look out for stock crossing warning signs and other advisory signs.
- Do not sound your horn near animals as it will frighten them causing them to move unexpectedly
- Look out for working dogs who can be watching the stock

If you hit an animal, it is important you remove the animal from the road or take action to have the animal removed as soon as you can safely do so. An animal left on the road can create a dangerous obstruction for other drivers.

To report a hazard on a major road, contact the Traffic Management Centre on 1800 018 313.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.