



NORFOLK ISLAND **TRAFFIC HANDBOOK**

The updating and digitizing of this booklet has been a project of the Norfolk Island Police Force and the Norfolk Island Regional Council [NIRC] Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

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Foreword

Three elements contribute to a traffic accident; the road system, the vehicle and the road user. This book will help you to understand the road system, the responsibilities of the vehicle ownership and the skills and care necessary for safe driving.

Serious road injuries and deaths occur daily and are caused mainly by driver error. Drivers should realize that their life, the lives of their passengers and the lives of others are dependant upon their skills, knowledge of road law, commonsense and courtesy.

This book must be read by persons applying for a licence and will be useful to all road users.

*The book sets out various legal requirements for drivers, but is intended as a **guide only**. The book does not tell you everything about road law. For a complete knowledge of road law, you should consult the appropriate Acts and Regulations.*

Remember that ignorance of what the law says on a particular subject will not be regarded as an excuse by the Courts.

Road laws change from time to time and it is YOUR responsibility to keep up to date with most recent changes to the law.

Any significant policy or road law changes will be reported in the Media or through Government Gazettes.

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PART A – GENERAL INFORMATION

WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

This book is for the people who wish to obtain their Learner's permit and experienced drivers with an interest in refreshing their knowledge of Norfolk Island road Laws and defensive driving skills.

People with a current overseas or interstate full licence must obtain a Norfolk Island Drivers Licence within 3 months after taking up residence on the Island.

Almost everything in this book applies to both drivers of cars and riders of motorcycles. The book uses the word 'driver' to cover both of these groups and the majority of the information also applies to pedal cyclists. Frequent reference is made to the male gender (e.g. him, his etc.) This is not, by any means, meant to be taken as being for males alone, and the practice has only been adopted for ease of understanding and reading by the learner.

To help you recognise an important road rule or safety statement in this book, part of the sentence has been printed in **bold type**.

Possession of a licence indicates that the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is satisfied that the holder is capable of driving safely on public roads in company with other qualified drivers. Once again, be warned that a driver's licence is a privilege and that failure by the holder to uphold the Traffic Laws applicable to Norfolk Island could lead to its cancellation.

OBTAINING YOUR PERMIT & LICENCE - IN BRIEF:

Learners permit for a motorcycle [M/C]

- 15 years of age [only permitted to ride a motorcycle between the hours of 6 am and 6 pm, 7 days a week]
- if you need to ride your motorcycle outside of the above hours for employment purposes, you are able to apply to the Registrar for a variation to your permit
- to obtain your learner's permit you must successfully complete a theoretical and eyesight test.

Learners permit for a motor vehicle [MV]

- 15 years & 9 months
- the motor vehicle learner's permit is valid for a period of 12 months. The permit holder must be accompanied by a person who is fully licensed to drive the same class of motor vehicle. "L" plates should be clearly displayed on the front and rear of the learners vehicle, without infringing the driver's vision or obscuring number plates as a clear indication to other road users

PROVISIONAL

Persons over the age of 16 years may apply for a Provisional Licence [provided that they have held a Learners permit for 3 months]. Once the applicant has passed both the theoretical & practical components of the Provisional Licence, which will allow the applicant/licence holder to drive between 6AM & 10PM.

Appointments for testing can be made by calling the Police Station on 2222 or visiting the station at 54 New Cascade Road.

Allow 30/45 minutes at a minimum for L permit theoretical component.

Allow 45/60 minutes at a minimum for both theoretical & practical components for P's

THE DRIVING TEST

When you arrive for your driving test, your vehicle must be:

- (1) Registered
- (2) Mechanically sound
- (3) Roadworthy

And should:

- 4) Be clean

The Examining Officer will inspect your vehicle to ensure that it complies with these conditions.

After the successful completion of the theoretical component you will be accompanied by the Examining Officer along a predetermined route.

You will need to be able to demonstrate your ability to:

- Co-ordinate the various vehicle controls
- Maintain direction and speed on the road, while observing all rules and signs
- Respect the rights and safety of other road users.



Following the successful completion of the licence practical and theory testing, the applicant will be supplied with the appropriate paperwork, for the issuance of a driver's licence.

The licence is obtained from the NIRC Registry, Kingston.

Please Note:

1/ *The licence test is not designed to trick anyone. It is simply a guide for the examiner to establish whether or not the holder of the permit is, at that time, sufficiently skilled to enable him to control a motor vehicle on Norfolk Island.*

2/ *Identification is required*

PART B – FIRST STEPS TO SAFE DRIVING

SEAT BELTS AND CHILD RESTRAINTS

Seat belts have two purposes:

1/ Seat belts prevent the occupant hitting the dashboard / windscreen or from being thrown from the vehicle. (Head and chest injuries are the most lethal in a car collision).

2/ Seat belts spread the shock of a crash over larger and stronger body areas, reducing the shock to safer levels.

Most front seat belts have 'inertia locking' devices. Under normal driving conditions belted occupants can move easily, but in an emergency, such as a panic stop or collision, the belt automatically locks to hold the occupant in position.

Wearing a seat belt, ensure;

- The belt is done up tightly so that both the lap and sash sections hold you firmly

- The lap section of the belt is across your hips, not across your abdomen

- The buckle is at your side, not across your body

Seat belts and child restraints are compulsory and should be used at all times.

Unrestrained animals and loose objects can be dangerous during a collision. The animals should be restrained in some fashion and the objects placed within the boot of the vehicle where applicable.

PREGNANT WOMEN

The medical profession supports the use of seat belts by pregnant women since the most frequent cause of death in vehicle accidents for an unborn child is the death of the mother.



EXCEPTIONS are granted to those who have secured a medical certificate outlining an acute or chronic health condition preventing them from using [where practicable] seat belts.

CHILD RESTRAINTS

Young children are especially vulnerable if they are not protected by the use of a seat belt, or an approved child restraint. During a crash, or even sudden braking, unrestrained children may be hurled around the interior of the vehicle.

A number of specially designed child restraints are available to protect young children. The only suitable child restraints are those that have been tested and manufactured to Australian standards and carry the Australian Standards symbol.

Remember:

- Always use a restraint, even for short trips – as statistics show that most accidents occur within a short distance from home.
- Never put a child into a seatbelt with an adult. In a crash the weight of an adult's body may crush the child causing serious injury or death.
- Never travel with an unrestrained child on your lap. The forces involved in a crash, even at low speeds, are so great that very few adults would have the strength needed to hold a child.
- A child should not be permitted to stand up on the seat.

- Children, especially babies, should be restrained by the approved devices where available.

Child Seat and Seat Belt Laws

Children in cars, vans and other goods vehicles must be carried in an appropriate child restraint from birth until either they are 135cm (4'5") tall or 12 years old, whichever comes first. There are very few exceptions. They must then use a seat belt (although it would be preferable to use a booster seat until they are 150 (5') tall.



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol, drugs & driving

DO NOT MIX.

Any driver who attempts any combination of the above risks:

- Injury or even death
- Damage to his vehicle and other property
- Loss of income (and perhaps employment)
- Loss of insurance cover since most insurance companies have a disclaimer clause – if you are involved in an accident and convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, or drugs, the insurance company may not pay for any damage or injury

Legal Penalties

Legal penalties for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs may include:

- Fine or imprisonment
- Licence suspension or cancellation

In summary, the drinking driver is liable to Court imposed penalties, possible financial ruin, serious injury or even death.

All owners of vehicles on Norfolk Island are required to provide evidence of Third Party Insurance prior to motor vehicle registration.

Because of the very layout of Norfolk Island, most residents live within walking distance from any of the local liquor establishments and walking, therefore, is strongly encouraged.

Random Breath Testing [RBT] is now 'law' & can be routinely performed on road users.

Legal limits:

Learners permit for a motorcycle [M/C] 0.00%

Learners permit for a motor vehicle [MV] 0.00%

Provisional licence for either the MC & MV 0.00%

Full licence for either the MC & MV 0.05%

MIXING ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND MEDICATION

Driving under the influence of drugs is dangerous.

The effect of cannabis for example, on the nervous system has much in common with alcohol. For example, research clearly shows that cannabis affect both the distance you can see and your ability to react quickly.

In the case of legally prescribed or purchased drugs, ask your Doctor or Pharmacist about the medication before drinking alcohol or driving.

Warning signs after taking medication

If you are taking medication and you feel:

- Drowsy
- Light Headed
- Dizzy, faint, shaky
- Aggressive, nauseous
- Blurred or double vision you should not be driving

ALCOHOL...

Alcohol in the body is not easily removed.

It takes the body about one hour to get rid of the alcohol in one standard drink and this rate of elimination cannot be increased. This means that once a person has reached the legal limit applicable on Norfolk Island it takes only one standard drink per hour to stay at that level.

Once alcohol is in the blood stream its affects on the brain cannot be prevented or controlled.

Black coffee, sleep, cold showers and exercise may alter the way a person feels but cannot change the person's blood alcohol concentration.



Standard Drinks

Standard drinks all contain about the same amount of alcohol. Be aware that 'low alcohol' and 'boutique beers' vary in alcoholic content. Most low 2/3 alcohol beers and wines are about the strength of ordinary beers and wines.

Drinking any alcohol in a 24 hours.

Examples of Standard Drinks
(containing 10 grams of alcohol)



- A** one middy of full strength beer (285ml)
- B** approx one port glass of fortified wine (60ml)
- C** approx one nip of spirits (30ml)
- D** one can of low alcohol beer (375ml)
- E** Approx one small glass of table wine (100ml)
- F** Approx one schooner of low alcohol beer (425ml)

Alcohol can impair driving and riding skills even when the blood alcohol content is less than the legal limit.

Alcohol affects skills in the following ways:

- a false sense of security develops;
- the driver/rider remains unaware of the level of driving/riding impairment;
- concentration deteriorates;
- speed is underestimated;
- reactions become slower;
- distances become harder to judge;
- range and breadth of vision are reduced;
- coping with bright lights becomes increasingly difficult; and
- steering errors are corrected more slowly, and less competently.

Alcohol impairment varies

The level of impairment from person to person depends on:

- the metabolism and size of the individual;
- the rate of consumption and type of alcoholic drink consumed;
- whether food has been eaten before or during the period of alcohol consumption;
- tiredness, mood, health;
- ingestion of other drugs; and
- many other factors.

What is Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

Alcohol concentration (BAC) is a measurement of the amount of alcohol in a person's blood or breath. It is measured in grams of alcohol per 100mL of blood if the analysis is based on a sample of blood or grams of alcohol in 210L of breath if the analysis is based on a sample of breath measured by a breath analysis instrument.

Effects of alcohol on the body

Alcohol can impair driving and riding skills even when the blood content is below current prescribed standards (**0.05%**)

Alcohol affects skills in the following ways:

- A false sense of security and bravado develops
- The driver/rider remains unaware of the level of driving/riding impairment
- Concentration deteriorates
- Speed is underestimated
- Reactions become slower
- Distances become harder to judge
- Range and breadth of vision are reduced
- Coping with oncoming traffic lights becomes increasingly difficult
- Steering errors are corrected slower and less competently.



Effects from person to person

The level of impairment from person to person depends upon:

- The metabolism and size of the individual
- The rate of consumption and type of alcoholic drink consumed
- Whether food has been eaten before or during alcohol consumption.

PART C – KNOWING THE ROAD RULES

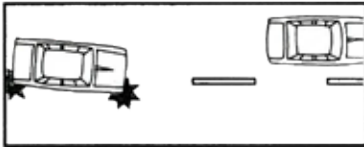
Many of the following road rules may not seem applicable to Norfolk Island due to the current lack of road markings; however a licensed driver is still responsible for his actions and those of his vehicle, under most circumstances. With this point in mind, it is appropriate that the theory be taught to allow the novice driver a broader knowledge of driving upon unmarked carriageways.

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Road Markings

1/ Broken centre of the road lines

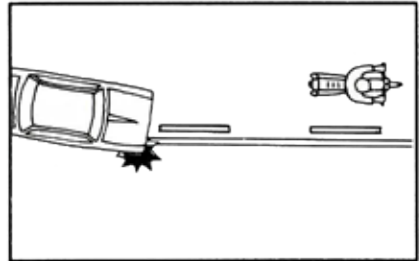
You should keep to the left of these lines (as close as possible to the left side of the road). You may cross them to overtake when it is safe to do so.



Broken centre of the road lines

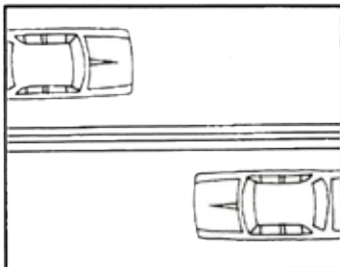
3/ Double lines with a broken line closer to your vehicle

You may cross these to overtake if the road ahead is clear.



Double lines with a *BROKEN* line closer to you

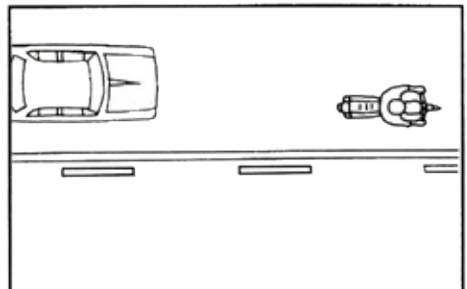
2/ **Double unbroken lines** must not be crossed. Keep your vehicle to the left of the road.



Double unbroken lines

4/ Double lines with an UNBROKEN line closer to your vehicle.

Keep left and never cross these.



Double lines with an *UNBROKEN* line closer to you

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Stop sign

You must stop your vehicle and give way to ALL traffic.



Form One Lane

Merge to the right giving way when you do so.



Give Way sign

Exercise caution at the intersection, giving way to all traffic. Proceed when safe to do so.



Children Crossing

As the sign depicts, children are frequently crossing the road and it is the driver's responsibility to approach the area with care and to be prepared to stop at any time.



SPEED LIMITS

The speed limits applicable to Norfolk Island are as follows:

10km/h AIRPORT....

The speed limit applicable to the carpark facility at the Airport is 10km/h.

30km/h SCHOOL ZONE...

Between the hours of 8.00 to 3.30 on school days where indicated by the traffic signs. (Situating around Norfolk Island Central School in Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Collins Head Road and Cascade Road).

30km/h KINGSTON FORESHORES...

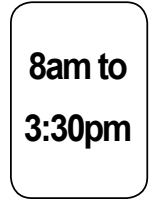
Along Bay Street (access road to Slaughter Bay, Emily Bay, Lone Pine and Kingston Jetty).

25km/h NATIONAL PARK....

The current speed limit on all gazetted roads within the National Park is 25 km/h

40km/h BURNT PINE....

Encompassing the majority of Burnt Pine, the shopping centre and certain parts of the immediate access road to the area 40km/h



GENERAL SPEED LIMIT...50KM/HR

...applies to all other areas.

Safety Tip: Speed limit signs show the maximum speeds permitted. However, the wise driver adjusts speed to suit traffic conditions and drives within his ability.

GIVING WAY

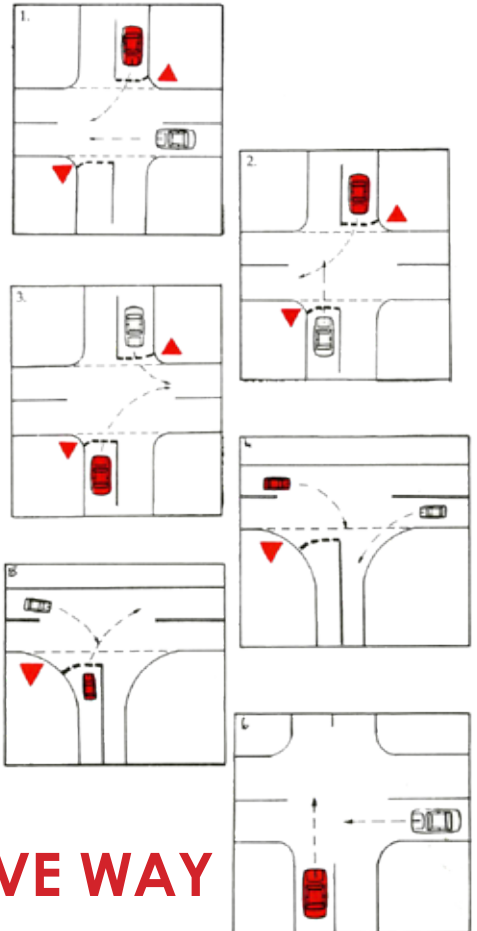
Drivers must take action to avoid an accident. Sometimes this may mean giving way when you would normally be able to proceed.

The aim of the responsible motorist is to drive safely and defensively so as to reduce the possibility of a collision (and all the costs and worry to go with it)

The law states that you must give way to:

- A vehicle on a continuing street if you are on a terminating street
- A vehicle on your right at an uncontrolled intersection
- Vehicles on your left and right if you are facing a **GIVE WAY** or a **STOP** sign
- All traffic when leaving a car parking area or private driveway
- All traffic before pulling out from the edge of a road (kerb area)
- All traffic before doing a three point turn or a U turn
- Emergency vehicles using their warning devices
- Pedestrians in general

**THE RED CAR GIVES WAY
IN ALL OF THE SITUATIONS
SHOWN BELOW**



IF IN DOUBT ... GIVE WAY

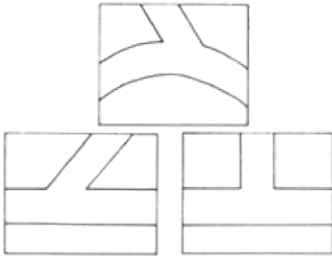
INTERSECTIONS

There are three types of intersections on Norfolk Island:

- T Junctions
- Cross Roads
- Roundabouts

T Junctions

A T Junction is formed where a street meets another and does not continue. (Examples shown below)



When two vehicles approach a T Junction from different streets and there is a reasonable possibility of a collision, the driver of the vehicle in the terminating street must give way to the vehicle in the continuing street.

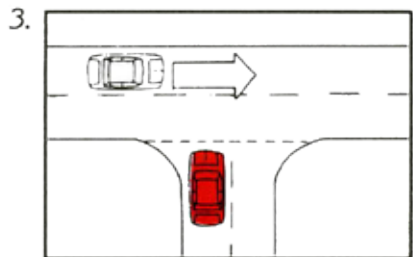
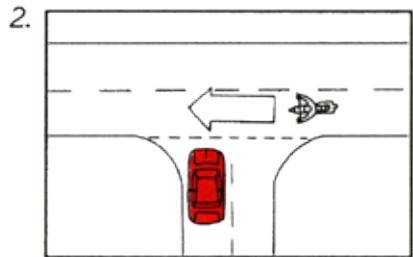
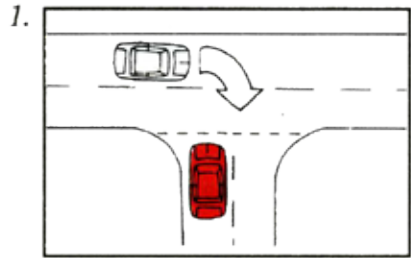
In the diagrams 1 to 3 opposite, the red vehicle gives way to the white vehicle in each case.

At unusual intersections, eg. "Y" Junctions, where it is not clear who is on the terminating street, there will generally be **GIVE WAY** or **STOP** signs erected to advise the drivers which vehicle must give way.

An example of a T Junction is the intersection of Taylors Road and Queen Elizabeth Avenue.

IF IN DOUBT, BE PREPARED TO GIVE WAY TO ALL OTHER ROAD USERS.

Giving way at T-Junctions



The red vehicle gives way in each case.

ROUNDBABOUTS

Who gives way at a roundabout?

- When approaching a roundabout you must give way to all vehicles on the roundabout
- When turning left, use your indicator as you approach and enter the roundabout
- Continue to use your left indicator as you exit the roundabout
- Stop indicating once you have left the roundabout
- When turning right, use your right indicator as you approach and enter the roundabout
- Before exiting, use your left indicator to exit
- Stop indicating once you have exited the roundabout



IF IN DOUBT ... GIVE WAY

CROSS ROADS

A cross road is formed where two continuing streets intersect. Before crossing or turning at an intersection, only proceed when you are sure it is safe to do so and that you will not block the road by having to stop within the intersection.

SIGNALLING

You are required to clearly indicate your intention to turn when driving upon the road. Examples of when indicators should be used are:

- When turning from one street to another
- Turning into a car parking zone, and when parking.
- Overtaking
- Stopping
- Pulling out from a road side.

Before doing any of the above you should check your rear vision mirrors **and look over your shoulder** to ensure any blind spots are clear.

You should also signal your intentions when such a signal would be helpful to other drivers.

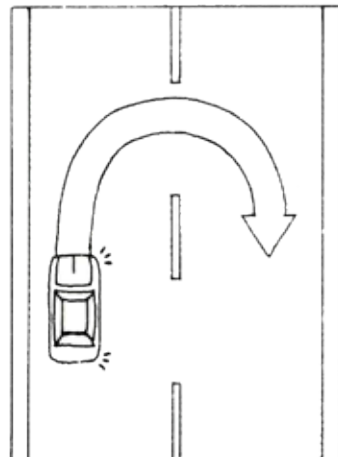
For example, a driver travelling from Kingston along Taylor's Road should indicate his intention to travel into Burnt Pine by signalling at the T Junction at Queen Elizabeth.

Plan your vehicle movements well in advance. If you are going to turn left, clearly indicate your intention to do so about 30 metres prior to the turning point.

Place your vehicle in the appropriate lane position, eg. if turning left, move your vehicle as close as practicable to the left side of the road lane.

U TURNS

Shown below is the basic method of turning a vehicle to face the opposite direction when completing a U turn. U turns are completed in one movement and are not allowed when you may create a danger to other road users. Commonsense prevails. E.g. you would not do a U turn at the top of a hill where the oncoming traffic is blinded to your vehicles movements by the hill.

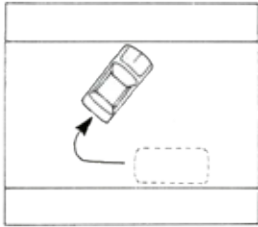


THREE POINT TURNS

These are completed in three movements using forward and reverse gears as shown below.

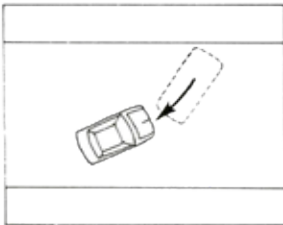
FIRST MOVE.

Indicate and carefully cross the road in a safe location.



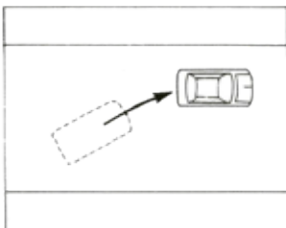
SECOND MOVE.

Reverse back into the other lane. Be prepared to stop if necessary.



THIRD MOVE.

Drive back into the required lane being aware of all other traffic conditions.



SCHOOL CROSSINGS

These are marked by thick white lines across the roadway. Upon Norfolk Island there is two school crossings; on Collins Head Road and Cascade Road.

Motorists must give way to the children upon the crossings at all times, and at any other time where there is a likelihood of a collision.

Vehicles must stop at (not over or on top of) the thick white lines appearing across the road at a short distance in front of the actual crossing.

It is an offence to obscure the school crossings by parking over the white lines.

SCHOOL ZONES

Areas around the schools' have been designated as School Zones. These areas are governed by the special speed limit of 30Km/h between the hours of 8:00AM- 3:30PM on school days.



PARKING

This really boils down to basic commonsense. The responsible driver should always park his or her motor vehicle as close as possible to the left hand side of the road, in the SAME direction in which the vehicle would normally be travelling. Where marked parking bays are provided, use them. E.g. Foodlands Mall parking area.

WHERE NOT TO PARK

It is illegal to stop or park your vehicle:

- On the right hand side of the road (not in the direction in which the vehicle would normally travel upon the road)
- Alongside any kerbing painted red
- Double parking (there is nothing more infuriating than returning to find a motor vehicle parked behind you, boxing you in)
- In a "No Stopping" zone
- In a "No Parking" zone
- In such a position as to obscure a traffic sign or likely to cause danger, obstruction or unreasonable inconvenience to others (e.g. over a school crossing)



PART D – ROAD CRAFT



MECHANICAL CHECKS

Preparing To Drive

Before attempting to drive you must:

- know the rules of the road as set out in this handbook;
- know your vehicle and its controls; and
- make sure your vehicle is safe to drive.

Mechanical Checks

• Brakes - do they operate effectively and evenly? Does the handbrake stop the vehicle from rolling on an incline?

• Headlights - are they of even power and focus? Does the low-beam switch work? Do the parking and number plate lights work?

• Tail and stop lights - do the tail lights work and show a red light to the rear? Do the stop lights work when you apply the foot brake?

• Turn indicators - check these frequently. Replace bulbs that have blown.

• Wheels - are they properly aligned and balanced? Unbalanced wheels can cause excessive tyre wear or even loss of control. Do

not forget the spare wheel when you check your tyres.

- Steering - does the steering wheel have excessive free movement?
- Windscreen wipers
- Horn
- Rear reflectors

Pre-Drive Checks

- Look for obvious faults or damage around the outside of your car before you drive away.
- Make sure there is nothing in the way (especially children, bicycles, tricycles or toys).
- Keep your mirrors, windows and headlights clean.
- Do not place stickers or ornaments where they can distract or block your view of the road.
- Make sure there are no loose items in your car that could prove dangerous. Close all doors properly.
- Make sure the driver's seat is properly adjusted.
- Make sure your seating position is high enough to get a clear view of the road.
- Adjust your mirrors after you have adjusted the driver's seat.
- Make sure you and your passengers are wearing seat belts.
- Check the controls. You should know where each of the controls are and how they work.
- Check gauges and warning lights.
- Be sure you have enough fuel for your trip.

Opening Car Doors

- A person must not cause a hazard to any person or vehicle by opening a door of a vehicle, leaving a door open or getting out of a vehicle.

GETTING UNDER YOUR WAY

Moving Off

Before entering traffic remember to:

- ensure there will be no danger to pedestrians;
- look both ways for following and oncoming traffic including bicycles;
- clearly signal your intention.

When leaving a private driveway or a street parking area give way to all traffic on the road and pedestrians and cyclists on the footpath.

Keeping a lookout

- Get the big picture. Do not just look at the road in front of your car. Tunnel vision is dangerous.
- Look well into the distance, keep your eyes moving to both sides and check your mirrors.
- Make head checks to help you get the big picture.



The shaded areas are called “blind spots” because you cannot see vehicles travelling there without looking over your shoulder.



Reversing

When reversing, do not rely on your mirrors alone. Turn your head and look over your shoulder.



Adjust your mirrors to give the best possible view.

Correctly adjusted mirrors provide the widest rear view possible while keeping the blind spots to a minimum.

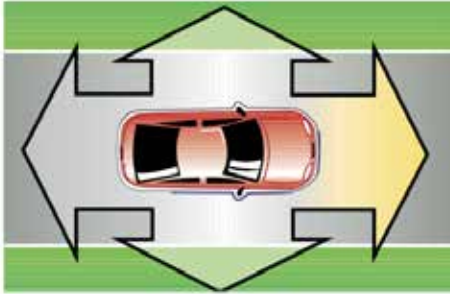
- Do not place stickers or ornaments where they are likely to distract or block your view of the road.
- Make sure there are no loose items in your car that could prove dangerous.
- Close all doors properly
- Make sure that your seat is properly adjusted before you start to drive.
- Check your vehicle gauges and warning lights frequently.
- Be sure you have enough fuel for your trip.
- Know where the vehicle controls are located.

Keeping your distance

It is important that you do not follow another vehicle too closely. Tailgating (following too close to the rear of another vehicle) is the cause of most chain or ‘concertina’ collisions. If the front vehicle stops suddenly when you are tailgating a crash is inevitable - you will not be able to stop in time.

If you keep plenty of space (a ‘buffer zone’ or space cushion) around your vehicle, you will be better able to avoid a collision. Stay as far away as driving conditions allow. Most motorists underestimate the distance required to stop their vehicle.

Space In front Buffer zone



Safe following distance

When following another vehicle, an estimation of the appropriate following distance can be obtained by using the 'three second rule'.

To use this following distance rule, you should keep a gap of at least three seconds or more between your vehicle and the one ahead. It means that it should take you at least three seconds (minimum time) to get to where the car in front is at in any given moment.

The three second rule relies on alert drivers driving vehicles in good mechanical condition, fitted with good tyres and driving on a good road surface in good traffic and weather conditions. Otherwise allow more distance.

To check that you are at least three seconds back:



Pick an object by the side of the road, such as a tree or post, that will soon be passed by the vehicle ahead.

As soon as the rear of the vehicle ahead passes the object, say to yourself "one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three".

You should take the full three seconds, or more, that it takes to say this, for the front of your vehicle to reach the same object. If you get there before you finish saying it - you are too close to the other vehicle.



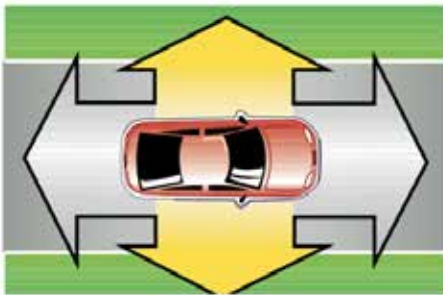
Novice drivers and drivers of larger vehicles such as buses and trucks, and drivers towing trailers or caravans, will need to allow longer following distances.

In poor road and weather conditions (eg. gravel surfaces or frosty/wet conditions), or if you are tired or driving at night, you should also allow a much greater distance from the vehicle in front.

In these circumstances, you should at least double the time elapsed, ie from three seconds to at least six or seven seconds, and even more to be certain.

If another vehicle moves between you and the vehicle in front, slow down briefly to allow your vehicle to fall back to a safe following distance.

Space to the sides Buffer zone

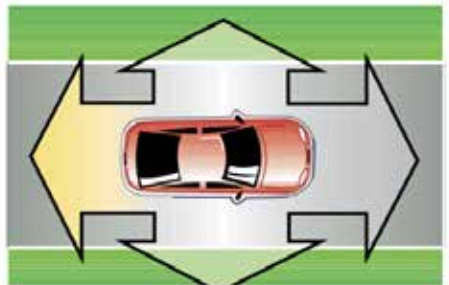


Just as you need a buffer zone/ space cushion in front, you also need space to the sides to protect you from mistakes. You need to keep sufficient space from vehicles that are:

- **alongside** - if you have a choice, do not drive next to another vehicle for too long;
- **oncoming** - by keeping to the left you make sure that you reduce the danger of being sideswiped by oncoming vehicles;
- **parked** - keep a space between you and parked vehicles. Someone may get out of a parked car suddenly, a pedestrian may step from between cars, or a driver may pull out without looking.

Where possible allow a minimum of 1 metre between your vehicle and the parked vehicle.

Space behind Buffer zone



Rear-end collisions are fairly common and are in fact, the fourth most common injury producing accident.

The driver behind has more control over the space cushion than you do.

However, there is plenty you can do to protect yourself.

When you are driving:

- keep a steady speed;
- signal in advance when you have to slow down;
- do NOT stop suddenly;
- do NOT feel you have to go faster when you are being tailgated (followed too closely);
- let the other driver overtake as soon as possible;
- gradually increase the buffer zone/space cushion in front to give you more room if a dangerous situation arises.

Steering

A good steering method is fundamental to good driving. Remember the following:

- position your hands on the steering wheel in the '10 to 2' or '1/4 to 3' position - as on a clock;

- do not allow your hands to drop to the bottom of the wheel or to hang loosely on the steering wheel;
- turning movements should be made smoothly using the push-pull method or in certain circumstances, the hand-over-hand method;
- do not rest your elbow on the window frame or grip the roof gutter;
- do not release your grip of the steering wheel to allow the steering to self centre;
- keep both hands on the wheel at all times unless operating vehicle controls;

Note: One hand or the other MUST have a firm grip of the steering wheel at ALL TIMES when the vehicle is in motion - otherwise your vehicle is not under safe and proper control.

Letting others know

When a crash happens, it is usually because:

- one driver does something unexpected;
- one driver does not know the other is there;
- one driver does not 'tune-in' to others around him or her.



Driver communication is important

Let others know what you are doing by indicating well in advance.

Eye contact between drivers is important. It can allow you to anticipate and avoid mistakes by other drivers or pedestrians.

Tune into the messages that other drivers are giving you. Look and listen and be prepared to react as required to another driver's communications.



Signalling

When you signal your intention to change lanes or turn, you are giving other drivers advanced warning of your intended movements.

You are required by law to give ample warning when signalling your intentions to turn into or from an intersection or driveway. Usually give 5 seconds prior to changing direction would be sufficient warning.

You **MUST** also give adequate indication **BEFORE YOU START** to diverge or change lanes. You **MUST** give a minimum five seconds indication before pulling out from the kerb.

Note: Make sure that your indicators are cancelled after you have completed the manoeuvre.

Lane position

If lanes are not marked on the roadway, drivers should drive their vehicles as near to the left-hand side of the road as is practicable.

If lanes are marked, stay within the line markings.

If you are driving on a multi-lane road it is advisable to drive in the left hand lane, leaving other lanes available for overtaking vehicles.

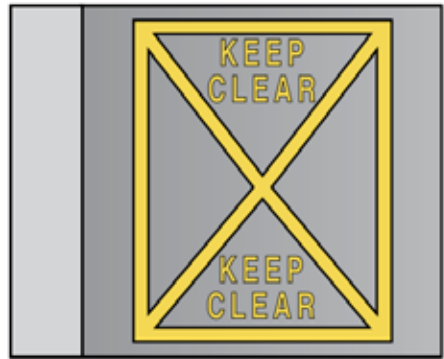
Once in a lane it is best to stay there unless:

- you wish to overtake a slower moving vehicle, which is in the same lane as your vehicle; or
- you need to change lanes in order to make a turn.

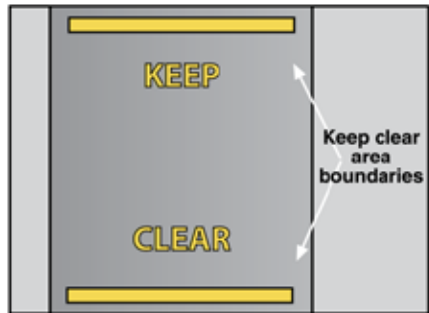
Drive in the centre of the lane and don't wander from side to side.
Keep clear markings

A driver must not stop on an area of a road marked with a keep clear marking.

Keep clear marking means the words "keep clear" marked across all or part of a road, with or without continuous lines marked across all or part of the road.



Example 1 - Keep clear marking bounded by line road markings



Example 2 - Keep clear marking without internal line markings

Lane changing

If you don't need to change lanes, DON'T.

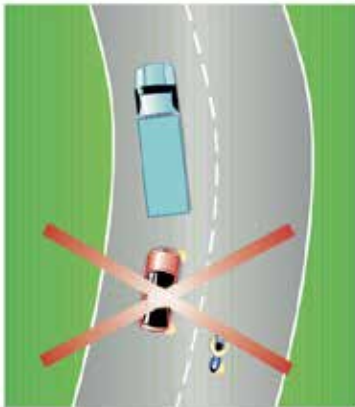
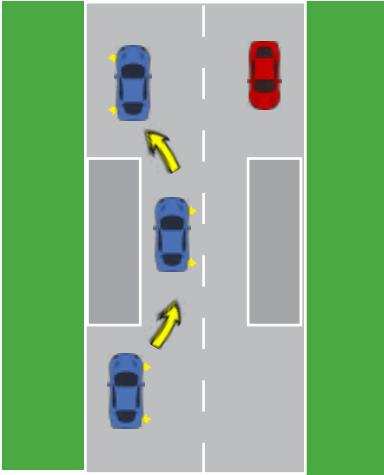
Changing lanes can be dangerous if you do not follow safe, set guidelines.

The basic steps to a safe lane change are:

- check your rear vision mirrors for closely following, fast approaching or overtaking traffic;

OVERTAKING & PASSING

Overtaking refers to two vehicles travelling in the same direction



Neither vehicle should be attempting to overtake in this situation

Never overtake in these situations:

- approaching the crest of a hill or a curve if you do not have a clear view for at least 150 metres;
- where there are double unbroken lines or an unbroken line on your side of the centre line;
- there is insufficient room, or you are unsure what is ahead;
- approaching a pedestrian or school crossing;
- where there is an intersection or the road narrows (eg at a bridge);
- where you would have to exceed the speed limit.

Remember to glance over your shoulder before you move out and signal for a reasonable time.

You must give way to traffic already in the stream you are moving into.

Vehicles should normally be overtaken in the right lane. However, in certain circumstances you may pass a vehicle on the left hand side.

For example:

- on multi-lane roads you may pass to the left of a vehicle which is in another lane proceeding in the same direction;
- on single lane roads, you may pass a vehicle on the left hand side if the driver of the vehicle has signalled an intention to make a right hand turn and has moved across to the centre of the road to allow other drivers sufficient room to pass on the left.

Passing or overtaking a vehicle displaying a 'Do Not Overtake Turning Vehicle' sign

Long vehicles can take up more than one lane when they are turning. You must not overtake any vehicle displaying a do not overtake turning vehicle sign that is turning and giving the relevant turn signal, unless it is safe to do so.



These signs are displayed on certain long vehicles.

Coasting, freewheeling and clutch control

NEVER coast or freewheel your vehicle with the clutch depressed or the gear lever in neutral. Driving in gear helps your car to remain stable and keep a good grip on the road surface. When travelling downhill your engine can act as a brake if you drive in gear. If you drive without the engine in gear you lose stability and control of your car's speed, particularly while cornering. You may lose control and run off the road or roll over. It is an offence to drive a vehicle unless you have proper control of it. If you drive with the clutch depressed for any distance (other than the last 2 or 3 metres when coming to a stop) you do not have proper control of your vehicle.

BRAKING AND STOPPING

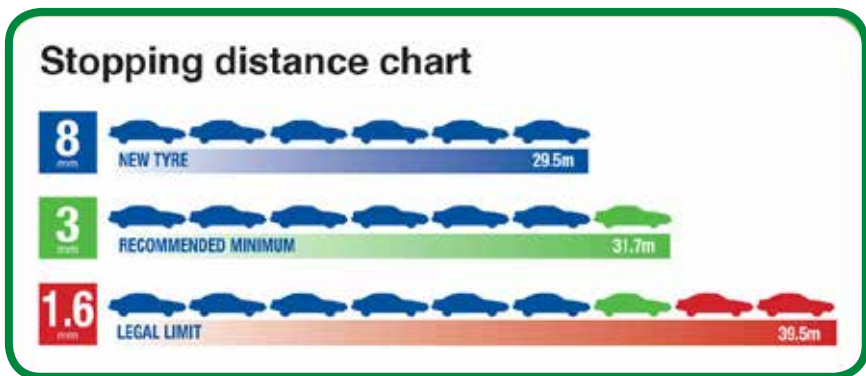
Stopping distance will depend on how quickly you react to danger and the speed at which you are travelling.

The average reaction time (from the time drivers see danger to when the brakes are applied) is two seconds.

Note: As your speed doubles, your stopping distance more than doubles.

At 60 km/h a vehicle will travel 34 metres while the driver is reacting to the danger, and another 21 metres before the car comes to a stop. Total stopping distance is 55 metres.

Stopping distances shown are for vehicles with good brakes, on a good dry smooth road surface, and fitted with good tyres with the required tread depth.



Reaction Time

How fast can you react to a hazard in front of you? It takes a very alert driver at least one second to react to an emergency. Unless you are giving your complete attention, it will take a lot longer. Reaction time is the distance travelled by a vehicle while a driver sees the need to use the brake and actually starts to physically apply the brake.

Travelling at 60km/h, you will cover about 17 metres per second. If you double your speed, you double the distance you will travel during your reaction time.

Total stopping distance equals reaction time + braking distance.

ABS - Anti-lock Braking System

Anti Lock Braking Systems (ABS) are designed to assist the average motorist in an emergency braking situation. ABS stops the wheels locking during heavy or emergency braking. It permits the driver to steer the vehicle whilst maintaining maximum braking.

Advantages of ABS:

- steering is maintained during maximum braking; and

- stability is maintained when braking on varying surfaces, eg. two wheels on roadway and two wheels on the dirt shoulder of the roadway.

ABS will not:

- shorten the braking distance of a vehicle; in fact in some situations (gravel roads) it may increase the braking distance; or
- stop the brakes from fading during heavy or prolonged use, eg driving down a long hill and 'riding' the brakes most of the way.

Reversing



Before attempting to reverse, check your inside rear vision mirror, then your left and right hand external mirrors. Only if your way is clear, should you reverse your vehicle.

If you are not certain that the way is clear because of blind spots, get someone else to guide you, or get out and check yourself.

Look over your left shoulder through the rear window when reversing. Children are often the victims of tragic accidents when run over by reversing cars.

Do's and don'ts:

- never reverse from a minor road into a major road;
- never reverse for a greater distance than is necessary;
- always try to enter and leave any road in a forward direction.

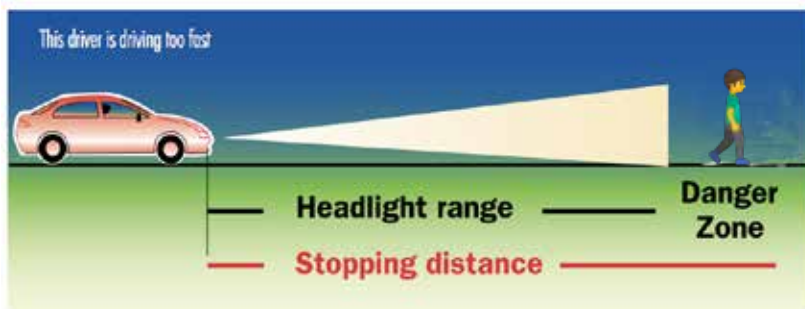
Head and tail lights (not just parking lights) MUST be switched on when you are driving between sunset and sunrise.

The use of lights at other times, such as during the day, or in fog, makes it easier for other drivers to see you.

By law, your vehicle must be fitted with at least two red reflectors (one on either side) at the rear. Red reflectors must not be fitted to the front of a vehicle; however white ones are permitted on the front.

Points for night driving:

- You can use high beam on any road or street, however, when using high beam you must dip your lights for oncoming vehicles as soon as possible and at least 200 metres away.
- blinding another driver with your lights on high beam is both dangerous and illegal;
- when approaching oncoming vehicles, avoid looking directly into their headlights. If the oncoming



vehicles headlights remain on high beam, look to the left hand edge of the roadway to avoid the glare.

If dazzled, slow down or pull over until your eyes recover;

- always dip your lights when following closer than 200 metres to another vehicle;
- watch out for pedestrians or cyclists;
- watch the road for animals which may be dazzled by your lights - if an animal is dazzled, brake carefully and sound your horn - if you are unable to stop safely, steer around the animal;
- keep your speed down, and give yourself time to react. You should be able to stop within the distance that you can see with the headlights. On rural and/or unlit roads be prepared for the unexpected.

Fog lights

Some vehicles are fitted with fog lights. Front fog lights have a unique and wide beam pattern with an effective range of up to 50 metres. Rear fog lights are red and have 20 times the luminous intensity of your standard tail lights. Fog lights should only be used when visibility is poor

so, if your vehicle is equipped with fog lights, know when to use them.

Front fog lights - must only be used for driving when fog, rain and other hazardous conditions reduce visibility. You will see better in fog if you dip your lights. Do not use high beam as the light will reflect back at you. In severe conditions, it can be beneficial to drive with only the parking and fog lights switched on, further reducing headlight glare.

Rear fog lights (red) - must only be used for driving when fog, rain and other hazardous conditions reduce visibility. If your vehicle does not have a rear fog light, turn on the flashing hazard warning lights instead. You must switch off your rear fog light or hazard warning lights as driving conditions and visibility improve.

Winter and wet weather driving



Make sure your vehicle is in good condition for cold weather motoring.

Points for winter and wet weather driving:

- check the lights, brakes, tyres, windscreen wipers, steering, radiator and battery regularly;
- do NOT drive with dirty or fogged up windows;
- try your brakes cautiously to test your vehicles braking ability if the road is wet;
- keep well back from the vehicle ahead. It takes at least twice the distance to stop when the road is wet;
- apply the brakes gently when stopping, as harsh braking may cause the vehicle to skid;
- always test your brakes after driving through water;

Steep hills



Points for steep hills:

- when driving down a steep hill reduce speed and engage a suitable low gear in good time, this applies to both manual and automatic vehicles;

- use the brakes as little as possible. If you must brake, do so on a straight stretch of road using controlled pressure on the pedal;
- when following another vehicle down hill allow at least three times the following distance you would under normal conditions (ie a six second rule).

Towing

When towing a trailer or horse float, note the following points:

- a trailer being towed must be securely attached to the towing vehicle;
- use a safety chain;
- slow down well in advance of corners and accelerate lightly through;
- avoid hard braking through corners;
- be careful when descending hills or overtaking as your vehicle's braking performance will be reduced;
- make sure any load in a towed trailer is evenly distributed and secured carefully.
- avoidable injuries and deaths have been caused by poorly secured loads.
- the weight of the trailer should be considered when towing.

Unsealed roads



When driving on loose surfaces:

- reduce speed;
- reduce speed further when approaching another vehicle - loose stones thrown up by a vehicle's tyres can shatter a windscreen;
- do not brake or accelerate harshly. Remember, ABS braking may actually increase your braking distance on gravel;
- do not allow your vehicle to drift out on corners. Loose dirt and gravel builds up on the outside of corners and can cause loss of vehicle traction and steering control;
- watch for corrugations and potholes in the road;



**WATCH OUT
FOR THOSE
COWS!!**

BREAKDOWNS

If you have a breakdown, use some common sense to protect yourself, your vehicle and other road users. Try to move your vehicle off the road, or further down the road should you breakdown on a corner or a hillcrest.

Use your vehicle hazard lights where fitted.

If you break down at night, don't stand in a position as to obscure your hazard lights or rear tail lights.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ACCIDENT

If you are involved in an accident which causes damage to a vehicle or any injury to any person or animal, or damage to property, **you must stop your vehicle.**

When asked you **MUST** give your name and address together with the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle you are driving to:

- **Any member of the police force**
- **Any injured person**
- **Any witness acting on behalf of an injured person**
- **The person whose property has been damaged**

The police do not have to be called to attend an accident if the damage to the vehicles or property is only minor (\$500 or less) and the parties do not dispute the facts.

If your vehicles are still drivable and the damage is over \$500 you must contact the police and inform them of the collision within 24 hours.

FAILURE TO DO SO IS AN OFFENCE

Safety Tip: If your vehicle is involved in a minor collision and is obstructing traffic, move it to one side of the road. There is no requirement for the vehicle to be left where it stopped after the collision.

Naturally if someone is injured call the ambulance.

If you hit a cow, call the police who will arrange the stock inspector's attendance. Each animal has an owner registration tag in place on the left ear. It would be of assistance to notify police of the number at the time of the calling.



PART E: OTHER ROAD USERS

PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS

Roads are not just for cars. Pedestrians, Equestrians, Pedal and Motor Cyclists also use the roads.

Pedestrians and Drivers

Watch for Pedestrians:

- near the shopping centres
- near schools, Especially when children are coming and going
- wherever you see young children playing or walking
- when coming out of a driveway

Safety Tip: If you can't see whether anyone is coming, use your horn and then drive slowly.

CYCLISTS AND DRIVERS

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

Cyclists are very vulnerable in traffic. They have no protection in the event of a collision and this places more responsibility onto the motorist.

Commonsense prevails. When you see cyclists, take extra care, as we all know how unpredictable they can be, especially young children. Don't forget that we were all on bikes once!

EQUESTRIANS AND DRIVERS

Horses are vulnerable and unpredictable in traffic, therefore exercise caution and common-sense at all times. Motorists when reasonably requested by a person in charge of a horse, are to stop, and remain stationary as long as necessary to give priority to horses.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance vehicles are all equipped with Various types of warning devices. When these are activated, it is the driver's responsibility to clear a passage for them. Move quickly but carefully to the side of the road so that they may overtake.

Do this as quickly as possible as it could be a friend's home being burnt down or a mate seriously injured at an accident.

Show consideration.



PART F: DRIVING OR RIDING IN THE NATIONAL PARK

The Norfolk Island National Park and the Botanic Garden include most of the remaining sub-tropical rain forest of Norfolk Island and the two highest peaks on the island (refer to ANNEXURE C). Activities allowed within the National Park and Botanic Garden are detailed in the Plan of Management.

Roads in the Park

Public access to the Park is divided by four roads – Mt Pitt Road (to Mt Pitt summit), Captain Cook Road (to Cook's Monument), Selwyn Pine Road (to Palm Glen) and Red Road.

The Mt Pitt and Captain Cook Roads are generally accessible during all weather conditions. However, the road to the Palm Glen car park (Selwyn Pine Road) and Red Road within the park may be impassable after rain.

As mentioned earlier, the speed limit on all gazetted roads within the park is 25kph. There are no roads within the Norfolk Island Botanic Garden but a car park is provided for visitors on Mission Road.

Tracks in the Park

Walking and horse riding are popular recreational sports in the National Park and a network of tracks has been provided for these purposes only. Motor cycles are not permitted on these tracks.

Off Road Vehicles

There are no special facilities for off road vehicles in the Park. 4WD vehicles and motor cycles are restricted to the four gazetted roads. Illegal trail bike use has caused concern about damage to the new forestry plantation, pedestrian tracks and safety to other park users.

Remember

All native plants and animals in the National Park are protected. Some trees producing guava and lemons have also been retained within the park to provide fruit for local consumption. Commercial activities (e.g. walking or horse riding tours) is allowed in the Park **only if a permit has been issued.**

Any inquiries regarding the National Park or the Botanic Gardens should be directed to the Park management

PART G: MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

There are two types of Motor Vehicle Insurance available.

COMPREHENSIVE or COMPOSITE and LIABILITY – THIRD PARTY ONLY.

Third Party Insurance is compulsory on Norfolk Island

COMPREHENSIVE / COMPOSITE provides you with cover for:

- Accidental loss or damage to your vehicle, such as that resulting from a collision
- Your liability for damage to property belonging to other persons, such as damage to another motor vehicle
- Protection of a driver against any claims that may arise from death or injury to another person as a result of the driver's negligence.

LIABILITY ONLY / THIRD PARTY provides you with cover for:

- Your liability for damage to property belonging to other persons, such as damage to another vehicle
- Protection of a driver against any claims that may arise from death or injury to another person as a result of the driver's negligence.
- Liability Cover does not provide you with compensation for damage to your own vehicle. Norfolk Island has compulsory Third Party Insurance.

PASSENGER RISK

The Comprehensive / Composite and Liability Only / Third Party Cover of Motor Vehicle Insurance Policies for private vehicles both provide cover for injury to passengers in your vehicle, but not the driver.

NO CLAIM BONUS

The No Claim Bonus is a discount allowed on the premium charged for Comprehensive / Composite Cover because NO claim has been made during the year. Bonuses vary between the Insurance groups, generally ranging between nil and 65% depending on the number of consecutive years without making a claim. If you are involved in an accident and consider the other driver responsible and wish to keep your No Claim Bonus, you will need to take action to recover the costs of repairs to your vehicle yourself. You should still notify your Insurance Company of the accident, enabling you to make a claim at a later date if necessary. A No Claim Bonus with one Insurance Company is transferable to another.

EXCESS

An excess is the amount you have to bear for each claim made. For private and business vehicles there is basic excess for the policy and this usually increases where drivers are under 25 years or have less than 2 years driving experience.

THIS ARTICLE IS A GUIDE ONLY AND FULL POLICY DETAILS SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE RESPECTIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

ANNEXURE A: DRIVERS LICENCE THEORY TEST

1/ SPEED LIMITS

A) Circle the correct speed limits applicable to the following areas:

NATIONAL PARK	(a) 25	(b) 40	(c) 20	(d) 50
AIRPORT	(a) 50	(b) 25	(c) 10	(d) 40
SHOPPING CENTRE	(a) 50	(b) 25	(c) 40	(d) 20
SCHOOL ZONES	(a) 20	(b) 25	(c) 50	(d) 30
KINGSTON FORESHORES	(a) 30	(b) 50	(c) 15	(d) 25
GENERAL SPEED LIMIT	(a) 20	(b) 40	(c) 50	(d) 25

B) What specific times does the 30 kph speed limit apply within school zones?

2/ GIVE WAY

You are driving a vehicle along New Cascade road towards Burnt Pine. You arrive at the round-a-bout and are now faced with a give way. What do you do? (Explain your answer)

3/ STOP

You are driving down Queen Elizabeth Avenue and intend to turn right on to Taylors Road to go into the Burnt Pine shopping centre. You are faced with a Stop sign at that intersection. What do you do? (Explain your answer)

4/ ACCIDENT PROCEDURE

(a) You are driving into the Bicentennial Complex when a careless driver reverses out of the car parking space without looking and at excessive speed. That vehicle then slams into the side of your new car. What do you do?

(b) You are driving your Mum's car along Ferny Lane when a cow comes off the embankment and you are unable to avoid hitting it. The cow dies immediately. What do you do?

ANNEXURE A: DRIVERS LICENCE THEORY TEST

5/ TRUE / FALSE (Circle the correct answer)

A/ Your vehicle, or the vehicle you are driving must be registered, mechanically sound and roadworthy True / False

B/ The legal penalties for driving whilst under the influence of intoxicating liquor include:

a) a substantial fine True / False

b) Licence suspension or cancellation True / False

c) Possible imprisonment True / False

C/ Cannabis cannot affect a drivers skills True / False

D/ A cup of hot black coffee and a long shower can change the blood alcohol concentration True / False

E/ Alcohol affects driving skills in the following ways:

a) Gives the driver a false sense of security True / False

b) Distances can be properly judged True / False

c) Concentration deteriorates True / False

d) Speed is underestimated True / False

e) Reactions become faster True / False

F/ Indicators should be used:

a) when turning from one street to another True / False

b) only when turning left into a carpark True / False

c) when overtaking True / False

d) when pulling out from the side of a road True / False

e) when such a signal would be helpful to other motorists True / False

6/ Explain what is meant by the "Two Second Rule"

7/ List three occasions when you would NOT overtake

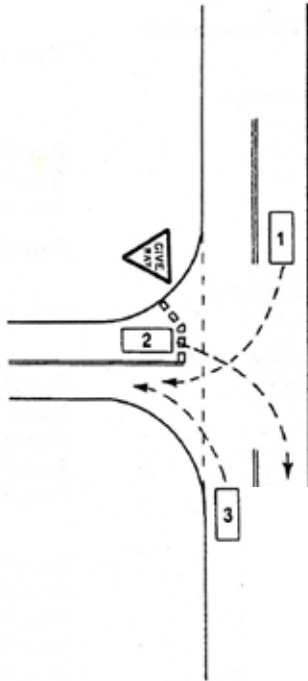
8/ Under what circumstances should your headlights be activated? (Explain your answer)

9/ What type of mechanical checks would you make before driving any vehicle?

10/ Under what circumstances are you allowed to ride a motorcycle within the National Park? (Explain your answer)

11/ What would you do if, when checking your rear vision mirror, you saw an Emergency Vehicle with its warning devices activated travelling towards you?

12/ Nominate which vehicle is required to Give Way in the following diagrams and explain your answer (refer to the diagrams in the notes about Giving Way)

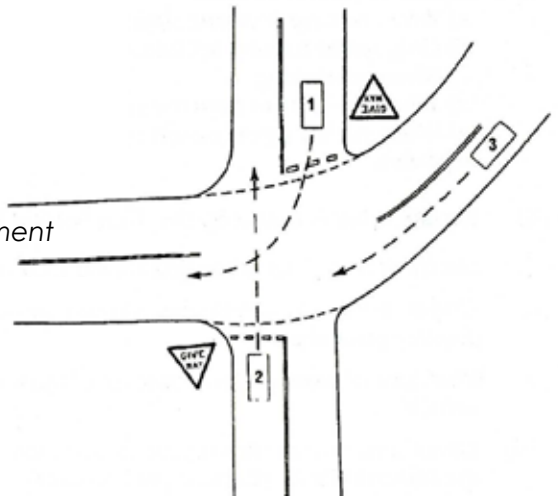


The correct order of movement through a 'T' intersection is:

- A/ •1 •2 •3
- B/ •1 •3 •2
- C/ •2 •1 •3
- D/ •3 •1 •2

The correct order of movement through a crossroad is:

- A/ •1 •3 •2
- B/ •2 •1 •3
- C/ •3 •1 •2
- D/ •3 •2 •1



ANNEXURE B: SAMPLE ROAD TESTS

THIS IS A SAMPLE ONLY AND MAY NOT BE THE ROUTE SELECTED BY THE EXAMINING OFFICER. THE ORAL QUESTIONS ASKED ARE NOT LIMITED BY THE LISTED HEADINGS.

