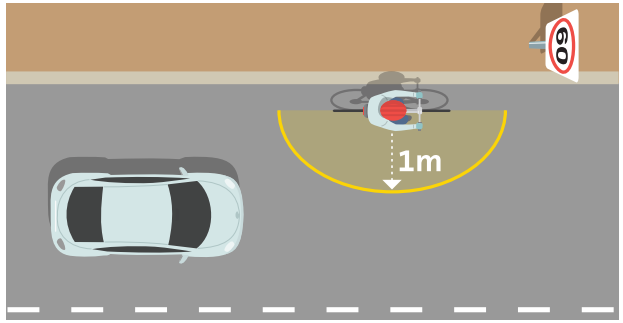
Important information for when you're driving a motor vehicle

Minimum overtaking distance

On the road, cyclists are particularly vulnerable because they are smaller and have less crash protection than motorists. The minimum overtaking rule defines the safe lateral space when overtaking cyclists and will assist in addressing the number of rear end and side swipe crashes involving cyclists.

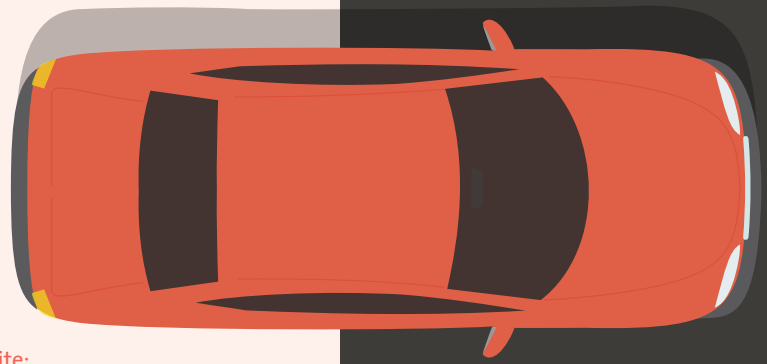
The rule in a snapshot

- When driving a car you must provide a minimum lateral distance of 1 metre when overtaking a cyclist in speed zones at or below 60km/h and 1.5 metres in speed zones above 60km/h.
- The distance is measured from the rightmost part of the bicycle or rider to the leftmost part of the motor vehicle (or anything projecting at a height that could strike the bicycle or trailer eg. mirror).
- To enable drivers to provide the minimum overtaking distances on narrow roads or roads with narrow lanes, motorists will be allowed to cross centre lines, straddle lane-lines and drive on painted islands, provided the driver has a clear view of any approaching traffic and that it is safe to do so. If it is not safe to pass, drivers must wait behind the cyclist until road conditions change.
- Drivers who fail to comply with the rule may be issued a $292 fine and accrue two demerit points.



Sharing the road with cyclists

- ✔ Cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and motorcycle riders are all legitimate road users.
- ✔ Be considerate and patient when you are travelling on the road.
- ✔ Watch for cyclists when you are exiting or entering a driveway.
- ✔ Look for cyclists at all intersections and roundabouts.
- ✔ Look for cyclists' hand signals so you are aware of their intentions.
- ✔ Indicate your intention to move well before changing lanes.
- ✔ Before changing directions, look for other road users, indicate, and check your mirror and blind spots.
- ✔ Check for cyclists before opening car doors.
- ✔ Be prepared to slow down in order to pass cyclists safely.
- ✔ Provide at least 1 metre when overtaking cyclists at 60km/h or below and 1.5 metres at 60km/h or above.
- ✔ Look out for cyclists at crossings.



For more information visit our website:

www.justice.act.gov.au

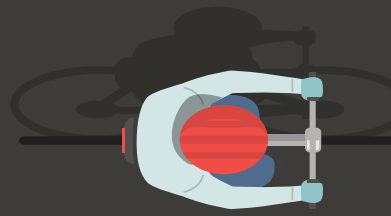
Road safety.
It's everyone's responsibility

ACT Government

VISION ZERO
Zero road deaths

Sharing the road

Cyclists and motorists

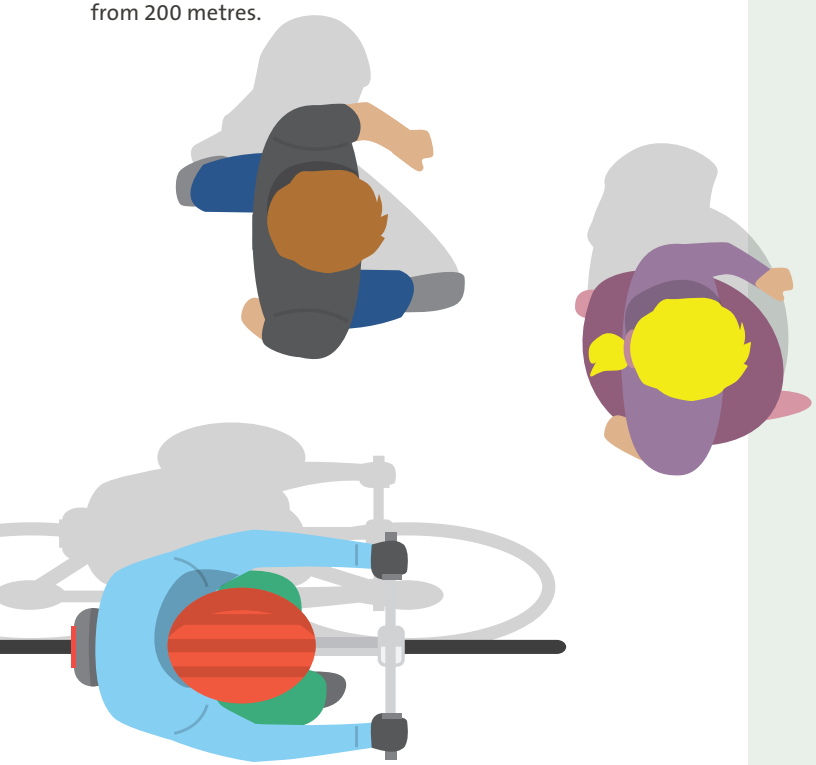


Important information for when you're riding a bike

Bicycle safety checklist

Before you even head out on the road, make sure you've got everything on this list.

- A roadworthy bicycle. Service your bike regularly. If you're unable to do it yourself, your local cycling shop can help.
- An approved bicycle helmet must be worn at all times when riding. This applies to adults and children.
- Brakes that are effective and in good working order.
- A bell, horn or similar warning device.
- A red reflector fitted to the rear.
- When riding in low light or at night a front light with unbroken or flashing white beam and a rear light with unbroken or flashing red beam. Both must be clearly visible from 200 metres.



Cyclist Code of Conduct

Follow the road rules.

Ensure that you ride no more than two abreast. On busy roads and narrow roads, you can help motorists out by riding to the left of the road or bicycle lane, and riding single file.

Allow plenty of time when signaling to change lanes or turn and ensure that the signaling is clear.

When riding on the road, you must ride in an on-road bicycle lane if there's one available, unless it's not practical to do so.

When cycling at night, ensure that you use lights. Dim the lights or position them towards the ground so as not to dazzle or blind other road users.

Keep to the left when using shared-paths. Give way to and slow down around pedestrians. Warn other people of your approach by sounding your bell or using your voice.

Slow down on approach to crossings, and be prepared to stop. Walk your bike, or ride across slowly (10km/h) and give way to pedestrians.

If you're using an audio device, keep the volume low to ensure you can hear what's going on around you.

Riding across crossings

The change to allow cyclists to ride across crossings is intended to provide amenity for cyclists, without compromising safety for cyclists or any other road user.

The rule in a snapshot

- You are able to ride slowly (at no more than 10km/h) across signalised marked foot crossings, children's crossings and pedestrian crossings.
- You must slow to 10km/h on the approach to the crossing and check for any approaching traffic and be prepared to stop. This is to allow motorists to see and respond to you before you make the crossing.
- You must keep to the left of the crossing and give way to any pedestrians on the crossing.
- You may be issued a traffic infringement notice for failing to comply with the road rule, including failing to slow on the approach to the crossing and failing to check for approaching traffic. The penalty for each of these offences is $151.

