

## Sharing the road with cyclists

Bicycles are classed as vehicles and, therefore, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as all other road users. They deserve the same respect and courtesy.

Importantly, cyclists are vulnerable road users, so when driving, always keep a look out for them.

When getting out of your vehicle, always check your rear view and side mirrors to avoid opening your door into a cyclist. It is an offence to cause a hazard to other road users by carelessly opening a car door or leaving it open, and you could be responsible for any injury or damage caused.

Cyclists are allowed to ride side by side (up to two abreast) on the road, so please be patient and overtake only when safe to do so.

Cyclists cannot stop as fast as other vehicles, so never cut in front of a bicycle or turn in front of a cyclist travelling on the road shoulder.

It is an offence to cut in front of cyclists at intersections. Do not overtake a cyclist if you are planning to turn left at an intersection close by. Be patient and wait until the cyclist is safely out of the intersection.

When overtaking a cyclist, keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the cyclist. A safe distance when overtaking a cyclist is considered to be at least one metre and two metres if you are travelling faster than 70 km/h. If two cyclists are riding side by side, overtake the cyclists as you would a car. Remember that the faster you are travelling, the more your tail wind will affect the cyclist

when you pass them.

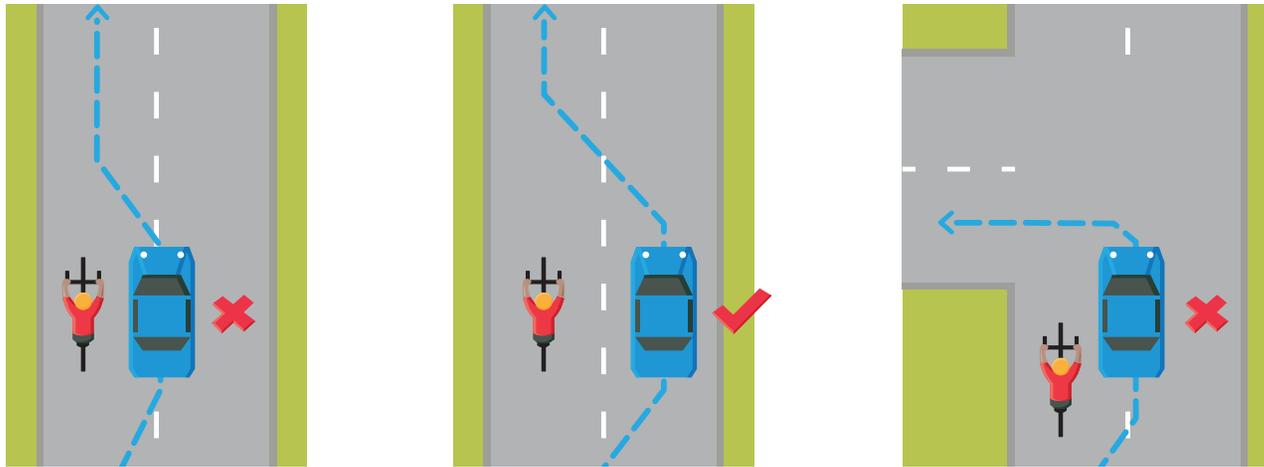
Where the road or lane is damaged or narrow, cyclists may need to come into the road lane to ride safely. Be prepared to slow down and allow the cyclist to travel away from the kerb. Only overtake the cyclist when safe to do so.

Cyclists are permitted to use the right lane to turn right or perform a U-turn at a roundabout.

### Safety tips:

- Leave at least 1 metre when passing a cyclist and 2 metres if you are travelling faster than 70 km/h.
- Never assume a cyclist is travelling slowly.
- Do not cut in front of cyclists.
- Do not turn in front of a cyclist travelling on the road shoulder.
- Check for cyclists in blind spots, at corners, driveways and intersections.
- When exiting your vehicle, use your left hand to open the door; this will force you to scan for cyclists.
- Always allow cyclists room to move and only overtake them when safe to do so.
- Dip your lights when approaching or overtaking a cyclist at night.
- Be aware of young cyclists, who can be unpredictable and lack road sense. Be especially careful around schools in the early mornings and afternoons.
- Be patient; consider the cyclists safety and your duty of care to avoid crashing.

**Be patient; consider the cyclists' safety and your duty of care to avoid crashing.**



#### **Additional road rules for cyclists**

Just like drivers of a motor vehicle, cyclists need a sound understanding of the road rules and must ride in a manner that other road users will be expecting.

When riding a bicycle, you are required to abide by all the rules and regulations that govern the drivers of other vehicles.

**Cyclists under the age of 17 must wear a helmet at all times.**

The helmet must meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 2063. The helmet must be properly fitted and fastened. This rule does not apply if the cyclist is aged 17 or over and riding on a public place or path that is separated from the road. However, it is always recommended that cyclists wear a helmet when riding in the Territory.

**Cyclists must ensure they have:**

- a correctly fitted, fastened and approved helmet on their head, including passengers, at all times when riding on the road (in the Northern Territory, this rule does not apply if the cyclist is aged 17 or over and is riding on a public place or path that is **separated from the road**. However, it is always recommended that cyclists wear a helmet when riding in the Territory)
- at least one effective brake on their bicycle
- a working bell or horn on their bicycle
- a red reflector on the rear of their bicycle
- a white reflector visible for at least 50 metres from the front of their bicycle.

**At night or in hazardous weather conditions, cyclists must ride with:**

- a white light that can be seen from at least 200 metres from the front of the bicycle
- a red light visible for at least 200 metres from the rear of the bicycle
- a red reflector that is visible for at least 50 metres from the rear of the bicycle.

**Cyclists must:**

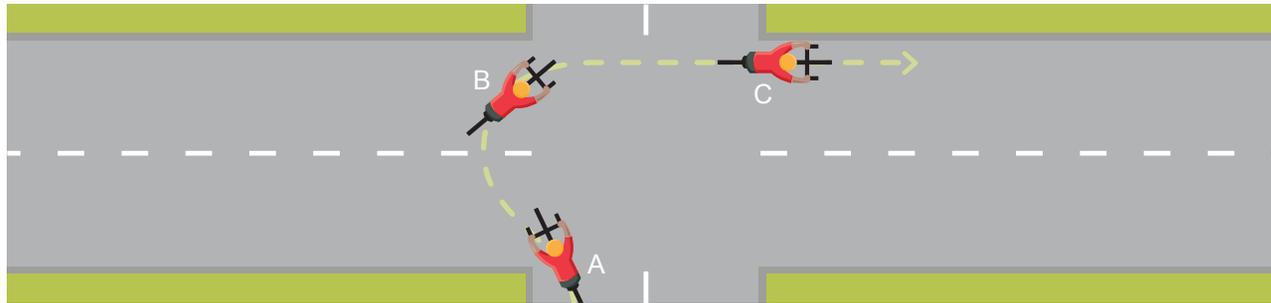
- maintain control of the bicycle at all times
- ride on the left side of the road
- ride in a predictable and considerate manner

- ride with at least one hand on the handlebars
- ride the bicycle the way it has been designed to be ridden
- ensure all passengers sit on a seat designed for them
- not carry more people than the bicycle is designed to carry
- signal when turning right or merging into the right lane
- give way to pedestrians and other vehicles when entering a road
- stop and give way to any vehicle exiting a roundabout
- always use the on-road bike lane when riding on the road and there is one available
- not ride alongside more than one other cyclist on a road, except to overtake other cyclists when safe to do so
- keep to the left when using a footpath or shared pedestrian / bicycle path and give way to pedestrians
- not ride a bicycle across a pedestrian crossing, children's crossing or marked foot crossing
- only ride on a crossing where there are bicycle crossing lights
- not be towed by another vehicle
- not ride within two metres of the rear of a moving motor vehicle continuously for more than 200 metres
- not lead an animal on a bicycle from a leash or any other kind of leading device.

It is an offence to ride with both hands off the handlebars or feet off the pedals, or to carry any load that prevents you from having control.

You must ride as near as possible to the far left side of the road. It is illegal and dangerous to ride on the right-hand side of the road into oncoming traffic.

Cyclists can turn right at an intersection by making a hook turn unless there is a sign to say that it is prohibited.



You are vulnerable when riding a bicycle on the road-take care and watch out for vehicles.

When riding a recumbent bicycle it is recommended that you use a high-visibility flag on a pole to improve your visibility to other road users, cyclists and pedestrians.

### Shared Paths, Bicycle Paths and Bicycle Lanes

All paths in the Northern Territory are shared between pedestrians and bicycles unless a sign indicates otherwise.

When riding on a shared path you must keep to the left, unless it is not possible to do so, and give way to any pedestrian.

When on a shared path and approaching someone from behind, slow down and sound your bell or horn to let them know you are passing.



Shared path sign



Bicycle only sign

You must not ride on a road or path if a 'no bicycles' sign or road marking applies.



No bicycles sign

When cycling on the road, you must use the bicycle lane when there is one available.



Bicycle lane sign