



SHARING OUR ROADS WITH OVERSIZE LOADS

No matter where you're driving in Australia, you may come across a truck with an oversize load. It may be an old house being moved to a new location, equipment for mines or construction projects, or giant turbines for a wind farm.

Oversize means they're at least 3.5 metres wide and they take up more than half the road. That's why they're often accompanied by pilot or escort vehicles. It can be a very long convoy, stretching kilometres

Turn over to learn how to drive safely around oversize vehicles, and visit weneedspace.com.au to hear from drivers of oversize, pilot and escort vehicles why they need space to keep you safe.



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A pilot vehicle will always have an 'Oversize Load Ahead' sign and yellow flashing lights on its roof. An escort vehicle's warning lights may be a different colour, depending on whether it's a police vehicle or transport enforcement vehicle, and where you are in Australia.

But one thing's the same all over... what you should do when you come across an oversize vehicle on the road. Firstly, don't panic! Slow down and wait to be shown what to do.



1 Approaching an oversize load

- ✓ If the oversize load is **coming towards you**, and there's a pilot or escort vehicle in front of it, they'll signal to you to slow down, pull off onto the shoulder, and stop. If you have UHF radio, they may call you on Channel 40 to tell you what to do.
- ✓ Once the load has safely passed, continue on your way.

2 Following an oversize load

- ✓ If you're **driving up behind** an oversize load with a pilot or escort following it, slow down, keep a safe following distance, and wait for directions.
- ✓ Only overtake when you're signalled to do and don't hesitate while overtaking. Pass quickly without speeding.
- ✓ If there's no pilot or escort, **only** overtake unless there's a very long, straight stretch of road and you can see clearly what's ahead.
- ✗ **Do not** overtake the pilot or escort vehicle behind the load... and get stuck in between. This makes it hard for everyone to do their job safely, and you're putting yourself and others at risk.

Other important life-saving facts

- If you try and pass a wide load without getting the go-ahead from the pilot or escort, or you pull back out onto the road before the load's safely passed, you could be pushed off the road... or worse. The truck driver may not know you're there.
- Oversize vehicles may have to move into the middle of the road – to cross a bridge, pass under powerlines or tree branches, or avoid things at the side of the road, like guardrails, road signs and power poles.
- Also, they don't bend! When they go round a corner, they can sweep across several lanes, so passing on corners can be extremely dangerous.
- And never cut in front of an oversize vehicle. They can't stop suddenly.

