

Wheeled Recreational Devices

Operational Instruction 2.12

June 2026



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

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Approvals record

Approver	Position	Date	Signature
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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country throughout South Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land and waters. We pay our respects to the diversity of cultures, significance of contributions and to Elders past, present and emerging.



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1 Scope

This Operational Instruction describes the method for prohibiting the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices from places where use of these vehicles is normally permitted by the *Road Traffic Act 1961*. It provides guidance on the evaluation criteria and method for seeking approval to regulate the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices.

2 Background

Wheeled Recreational Device users are users of rollerblades (in-line skates), rollerskates, skateboards and push/kick scooters. They have the same obligations and responsibilities as pedestrians and other road users to take due care when skating on roads and footpaths.

Wheeled Recreational Devices are allowed in most public places, provided they are not used in a dangerous manner or in a way which causes damage to property.

The use of Wheeled Recreational Devices is also permitted on roads and footpaths, except:

- on roads with continuous or broken separation lines or median strips (in this case skating is allowed on footpaths only);
- on roads on which the speed limit is greater than 50 km/h;
- on roads divided into marked lanes for traffic going in the same direction (in this case skating is allowed on the footpaths only);
- on roads or footpaths which are prescribed by regulation or where signs are installed (see Section 5);
- on bicycle lanes, or roads provided with bicycle lanes (although users may use a designated cycling path off the roadway); and
- after sunset or before sunrise and not in periods of low visibility.

Where Wheeled Recreational Device users are allowed on footpaths but not on the road, they may cross the road directly from one footpath to the other by the shortest safe route (providing the vehicle may be lawfully ridden on this path).

Refer Section 99B of the Road Traffic Act 1961, Australian Road Rules (ARR) Rule 239 to Rule 244, and Regulation 29 of the Road Traffic (Road Rules - Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014 for rules relating to wheeled recreational devices.

As of July 2025, new laws under South Australian legislation allow privately owned **Personal Mobility Devices** (PMD), such as electric scooters, electric skateboards, electric unicycles and similar, to be used on roads, bicycle lanes and road-related areas such as footpaths. A PMD is defined as having one or more wheels, propelled by an electric motor, designed for use by a single person only, has an effective stopping system, not more than 1250 mm in length, 700 mm width, 1350 mm height and weighing less than 45 kg (refer *Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014 Regulation 3(6b)*). This definition excludes devices such as a Segway.

Traffic signs, road rules and regulations that apply to a rider of a bicycle also apply to PMD users, with the exception of the following:

- PMD users must be of 16 years of age or older.
- PMD users must not carry passengers.
- PMD users must not ride abreast.
- PMD users must not travel at a speed greater than:
 - 25 km/h - on roads, bicycle paths or separated footpaths designed for bicycles
 - 10 km/h - on footpaths or shared paths
- PMD users must not travel on:
 - a road on which the speed limit is greater than 50 km/h
 - a bicycle lane where the road speed limit is greater than 50 km/h
 - for e-scooters exclusively, a bicycle lane where road speed limit is greater than 60 km/h

Refer to Regulation 30A of the *Road Traffic (Road Rules - Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014* for rules relating to Personal Mobility Devices.

3 Forms of Prohibition

Where it can be demonstrated that the use of footpaths or other areas by Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device users is not suitable, primarily due to concerns for the safety of pedestrians, the use of these devices may be prohibited. See Section 4 for criteria for assessment.

There are two methods by which Councils (or other road authorities) may apply to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Devices use:

- a) by installation of signs; or
- b) by regulation (Schedule 1 – Areas on which wheeled recreational devices and toys are prohibited under the *Road Traffic (Road Rules – Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*).

NOTE: Installation of signs is required to prohibit both Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices. Under Regulation 30A(9) of *Road Traffic (Road Rules - Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*, a person who rides a personal mobility device must not travel past a no wheeled recreational device or toys sign.

A prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Devices by regulation only does not prohibit Personal Mobility Devices.

Any request for prohibition must be assessed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) as delegated by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

A traffic impact statement detailing the location, reasons and proposed method of prohibition must be completed by the road authority and submitted to the Department's Manager, Traffic Services.

Under Regulation 30A(2) of the *Road Traffic (Road Rules - Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*, traffic control devices which apply to cyclists also apply to Personal Mobility Device users. A "No Bicycles" (R6-10-3) sign or pavement marking in accordance with Australian Standard AS 1742.9 *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 9: Bicycle Facilities* prohibits both bicycles and

Personal Mobility Devices. When used in accordance with AS 1742.9, Council can install these signs or pavement markings under the Minister's *Instrument of General Approval and Delegation to Council*.

There is no traffic control device or regulatory control which can be used to prohibit Personal Mobility Devices exclusively.

3.1 Prohibition by the installation of signs

The prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device use by signs is suitable for either footpaths or road, both linear lengths or areas. In some cases, it may not be feasible to sign every possible entrance to a prohibited zone, in which case an application for prohibition by regulation may be considered.

Where the criteria in Section 4 is met, the use of signs to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device use may be approved by the Department's Network Management Services, and the prohibition effected by the installation of the appropriate signs as shown in Section 5.

3.2 Prohibition by regulation

If prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device use is being sought for an area whereby the nature of the location is such that it is not feasible to sign all possible entries to the area, prohibition by regulation may be considered. For example, a public park with no fences or gates, where users could enter the park from an off-path location and it would not be a reasonable expectation for them to see a sign.

Proposals for prohibition by regulation will need to be reviewed by the Department's Network Management Services on the basis of the criteria discussed in Section 4 before amendments are drafted to proclaim the footpath, roadway or area a designated road or part of a road under Regulation 29 of the *Road Traffic (Road Rules – Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*.

If prohibition by regulation has been proclaimed, signs as shown in Section 5 may be installed with the approval of the Department's Network Management Services.

NOTE: A regulation prohibiting Wheeled Recreational Devices on its own does not apply to Personal Mobility Devices. For the prohibition to apply to Personal Mobility Devices, appropriate signs must also be installed. These signs are shown in section 5.

4 Assessment criteria for prohibition

The basis of the assessment criteria is to provide a safe environment for pedestrians, Wheeled Recreational Device users, Personal Mobility Device users and motorists.

A measure of the footpath/road use by pedestrians/vehicles respectively, as well as the footpath/road conditions, is used as the main assessment for determining whether users pose a significant hazard to themselves or others. Factors which shall be considered are:

- the footpath has a relatively high pedestrian activity (i.e. in the vicinity of shopping districts or cafe areas with more than 360 people per hour using the footpath during peak daytime periods);
- the roadway adjacent to the footpath carries a significant amount of daytime vehicular traffic (more than 360 vehicles per hour) where there is a relatively high chance of vehicular traffic crossing the footpath to gain access onto private driveways or roads and where the sight distance between device users and motorists is impaired by obstructions such as shopfronts, advertising, or roadside furniture;
- the uneven surface or steep slope of the pavement makes travel by Wheeled Recreational Devices or Personal Mobility Devices hazardous;
- the width of the footpath is less than 1.2 metres in which case device users may become a hazard to other footpath users; or
- the primary footpath users are aged, young or the disabled such as near aged homes, kindergartens, or hospitals.

5 Prohibition signs

The *Road Traffic Act 1961* does not require the installation of signs where the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices is prohibited by regulation. However, for the purpose of informing members of the public, it is recommended that the road authority install signs to define the prohibition area.

Where the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices is prohibited through the use of signs only, signs shall be installed to define the area. These signs shall only be installed with approval from DIT's Network Management Services.

NOTE: Signs used to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Devices also apply to Personal Mobility Devices.

The No Wheeled Recreational Devices (R6-SA110) sign should be placed at the extremities of the prohibited zone. See Section 5.1 for positioning of signs. Where the prohibition applies only to the footpath but signs cannot be located adjacent to the property boundary to indicate this, the No Wheeled Recreational Devices ON FOOTPATH (R6-SA111) sign should be used instead.



Figure 5.1 – No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign (R6-SA110)

The No Wheeled Recreational Devices END (R6-SA109) sign may be placed on the back of the No Wheeled Recreational Devices (R6-SA110) sign or No Wheeled Recreational Devices ON FOOTPATH (R6-SA111) sign at the extremities of the prohibition zone. Under Regulation 29(3) of the *Road Traffic (Road Rules - Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*, the No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign applies to a length of footpath beginning at the sign and ending at the END (R6-SA109) sign, or the end of the footpath. Where the zone ends mid-block, or the end of the footpath is unclear, the END (R6-SA109) sign should be used to clearly define the end of the prohibition zone.

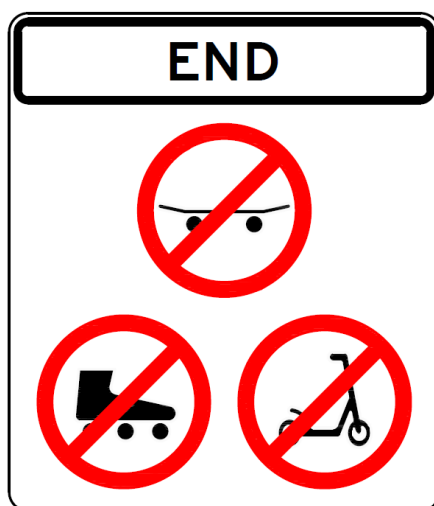


Figure 5.2 – No Wheeled Recreational Devices END sign (R6-SA109)

The No Wheeled Recreational Devices ON FOOTPATH sign (R6-SA111) may be used in place of the No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign (R6-SA110) where the prohibition only applies to the footpath and it is not possible to indicate by positioning of the sign (see Section 5.1) that the prohibition only applies to the footpath.



Figure 5.3 – No Wheeled Recreational Devices ON FOOTPATH sign (R6-SA111)

5.1 Placement of signs

Where used, signs shall be provided at the start and end points of the prohibited zone, and at the start and ends of the streets where the zone encompasses multiple streets.

The signs at the start of the street should be placed within 3 metres of the building line or property boundary. They should not be installed directly in line with a kerb ramp or where footpath users are placed at risk of a collision.

A minimum of 2 metres clearance should be adequate from the bottom of the sign to the footpath (the footpath is defined as the portion of land between the edge of the roadway and the edge of the property boundary, paved or unpaved). This height should ensure that the signs are visible from a distance, minimise the risk of vandalism and provide adequate clearance for pedestrian activity. If pedestrians must walk under the sign the height should be raised to 2.5 metres.

Signs may be installed on existing street lights, stobie poles or posts used for parking signs, with approval of the relevant asset owner, provided the signs are in clear view of road users. Where the prohibition applies to a road, signs should be mounted on separate posts. The signs should not be placed on the same post as other traffic signs.

If the prohibition relates to the footpath only, regulatory signs for Wheeled Recreational Devices (R6-SA110 or R6-SA111) should be installed on the property boundary side of the footpath, provided that a clear footpath width for pedestrian activity can be maintained. In such case, the following must be considered:

- The signs should be angled slightly towards the footpath to ensure that the signs are clearly visible;
- Where low rooflines or regularly spaced verandahs restrict visibility, the signs may be installed on the roadway side of the footpath. However, it is preferable to install all of the signs on the same side of the footpath.

Where the prohibition relates to the footpath only but signs cannot be located on the property boundary side of the footpath, the R6-SA111 sign shall be used.

If the prohibition relates to both the footpath and road, the R6-SA110 signs should be installed on the roadway side of the footpath as to indicate that Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices are prohibited on both the footpath and the road.

5.2 Repeater signs

Where the extremities of the zone are more than 75 m apart, repeater signs should be provided. Repeater signs should be evenly spaced, with spacing not exceeding approximately 75 m.

5.3 Sign sizes

Regulatory signs for Wheeled Recreational Devices are available in two standard sizes: A and AA. The choice of sign size can notably influence both community safety and aesthetics. Safety considerations include the anticipated approach speed of Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device users, pedestrian and traffic volumes, the number of conflict points and available sight distances. Where these safety concerns cannot be sufficiently mitigated through other measures, the use of the larger A size signs should be considered.

AA size signs may be used where the prohibition applies exclusively to footpaths or other off-road areas.

A size signs should be used where the prohibition applies to roads.

6 Approvals

Requests for approval of prohibition must be accompanied by a traffic impact statement which includes:

- Method of prohibition (see Section 3)
- Basis of prohibition (see Section 4)
- Location of prohibition (extents, length of road and/or footpath), sign details and locations
- Any consultation or communication plans to support the prohibition

Applications should be forwarded to:

The Manager, Traffic Services
Department for Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 1533
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Telephone No. (08) 7133 3300
Email: DIT.EnquiriesAdministrator@sa.gov.au