

# Wheeled Recreational Devices

## Operational Instruction 2.12

July 2025



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Infrastructure  
and Transport

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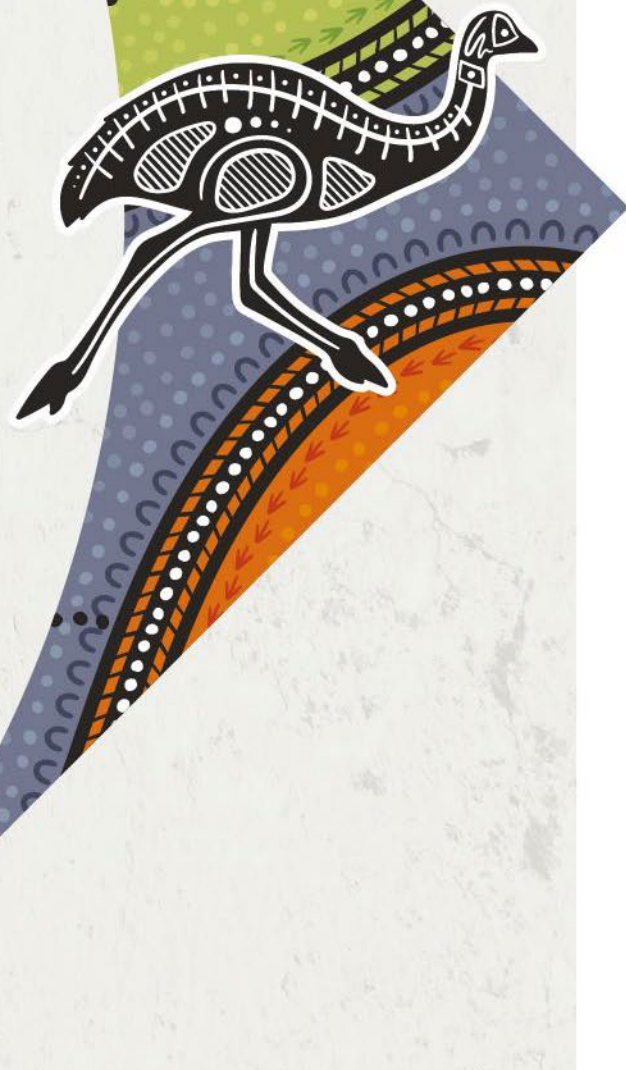
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Version	Date changed	Nature of amendment
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Stephen Pascale	Manager, Traffic Services	15 July 2025	Digital Approval 50811

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

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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*. The evaluation criteria and method for seeking approval to regulate the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility Devices is discussed.

## 2 Background

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Wheeled Recreational Device users are users of in-line skates, roller skates, skateboards and 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 roadways 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 traffic control devices 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.

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

As of July 2025, new laws under South Australian legislation allow 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. 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 may use a secured mobile phone. (Intended for the purpose as a speedometer)
- 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

**Personal Mobility Device users must not travel past a No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign.** See Section 5.

Refer to section 30A – Rules relating to personal mobility devices of the *Road Traffic (Road Rules—Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2014*.

A Personal Mobility Device is described in section 6b of the *Road Traffic (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2014*.

### 3 Forms of Prohibition

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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 vehicles may be prohibited. Footpaths adjacent to major shopping centres, car parks, aged housing areas or other areas of high pedestrian activity could be reasonably seen as being unsuitable. These areas are generally the responsibility of the Council to prohibit the use of wheeled recreational devices.

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

- a) by installation of traffic control devices; 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*).

Any request for prohibition must be assessed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) as delegated by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. The method by which prohibition is achieved is dependent upon the size of the area for which prohibition is being sought. **Assessment criteria are outlined in Section 4.**

A standard application form detailing the location, reasons and proposed method of prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device users, accompanied by a traffic impact statement, must be completed by the road authority and assessed by the Manager, Traffic Services, DIT. The application form is contained in Appendix A.

**NOTE:** Traffic control device used to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Devices also apply to Personal Mobility Devices.

### 3.1 Prohibition by the installation of traffic control devices

The prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device use by traffic control devices (signs) is suitable for lengths of footpath or roadway, which do not exceed 500 m.

If the length of footpath or roadway complies with the criteria in Section 4, the use of traffic control devices to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Device use may be approved by the Department's Network Management Services, and the prohibition effected by the installation of the appropriate traffic control devices as shown in Section 5.

### 3.2 Prohibition by regulation

If prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device and Personal Mobility Device use is being sought for lengths of footpath or roadway greater than 500 m or for an area encompassing a number of streets or footpaths, prohibition by regulation is required.

A recommendation for the prohibition is required from the Manager, Traffic Services, DIT, on the basis of the criteria discussed in Section 4. Action must then be taken by the Manager, Legislation Policy and Services, to draft legislation to have the section of footpath, roadway or area proclaimed a designated road or part of a road, for the purpose of Section 99B of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, once the necessary Ministerial approval process has been completed.

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

## 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 used 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 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 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* does not require the erection of traffic control devices where the use of Wheeled Recreational Devices and Personal Mobility 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 traffic control devices only, signs shall be installed to define the area. These signs shall only be installed with approval from DIT's Network Management Services.

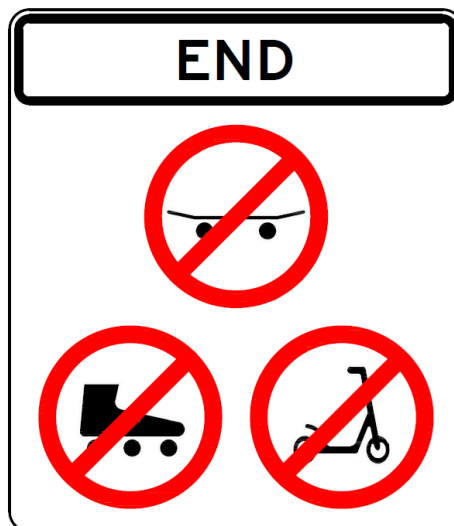
**NOTE:** Traffic control device used to prohibit Wheeled Recreational Devices also apply to Personal Mobility Devices.

The No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign (R6-SA110) should be placed at the extremities of the prohibited zone.



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

The No Wheeled Recreational Devices END sign (R6-SA109) may be placed on the back of the No Wheeled Recreational Devices sign (R6-SA110) at the extremities of the prohibition zone.



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

## 5.1 Placement of signs

Where used, signs shall be provided at the end points of the prohibited zone, and at the 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. (Note: 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 and R6-SA109) 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.

If the prohibition relates to the footpath and roadway, the 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 roadway.

## 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.

# Appendix A - Application for Wheeled Recreational Devices Prohibition

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The notes below should aid in the completion of this application form.

## METHOD OF PROHIBITION

The Road Traffic Act provides two methods by which a Wheeled Recreational Device prohibition may be applied. One is by the installation of traffic control devices and the other is by regulation.

Installation of traffic control devices should be used for smaller areas such as a length of road or footpath of up to 500 metres. Regulation should be used for larger areas such as:

- a) a single length of road exceeding 500 m in length; or
- b) a defined geographic area containing a number of roads.

Prohibition by Regulation generally requires a minimum of three months from time of request until proclamation.

## LOCATION OF PROHIBITION

The area in which the prohibition is sought shall be described in as much detail as possible and be accompanied by plans or maps that accurately define and identify the area and show the location of any traffic control devices relating to this prohibition.

## BASIS FOR PROHIBITION

Safety factors will be the sole criteria for assessing applications and full details of the reasons an area is considered must be provided. Additional information should be included on a separate sheet if there is insufficient room on the request form. A Traffic Impact Statement must be attached. Each application will be considered on merit.

## LODGING AN APPLICATION

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](mailto:DIT.EnquiriesAdministrator@sa.gov.au)



**DIT USE ONLY – File No:**

## REQUEST FOR WHEELED RECREATIONAL DEVICES PROHIBITION

Refer to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, *Operational Instruction 2.12 – Wheeled Recreation Vehicles* for instructions on completing this form.

**A separate form must be used for each prohibition requested.**

Name of Road Authority:	Contact Officer:
Address:	Phone:
	Email:

A Wheeled Recreational Device prohibition is sought by:

Traffic Control Device only*  <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved.   Signed: Manager, Traffic Services Date:
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**OR**

Regulation*  <input type="checkbox"/>	To Manager, Legislative Services: <i>Recommended for prohibition by regulation. Traffic control devices associated with this prohibition by regulation as indicated on this application are approved for and on behalf of the Commissioner of Highways.</i>  Signed: Manager, Traffic Services Date:
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**\*Tick option requested**

Location of requested prohibition:  
(Describe in detail and attach a site map or plan)

Reasons for seeking prohibition:  
(Provide full details to justify prohibition. A Traffic Impact Statement must be attached.)