

# Wheeled Recreational Devices





# TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT Operational Instructions

## Wheeled Recreational Devices - 2.12

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## 1. Scope

This Operational Instruction describes the method for prohibiting the use of Wheeled Recreational 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 is discussed.

## 2. Background

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Wheeled Recreational Devices users (skaters) 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 carriageways 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 50km/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 skaters may use a designated cycling path off the carriageway); 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 carriageway, they may cross the road carriageway directly from one footpath to the other by the shortest safe route (providing the vehicle may be lawfully ridden on this path).

## 3. Forms of prohibition

Where it can be demonstrated that the use of footpaths or other areas by Wheeled Recreational 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 use:

- a) by installation of traffic control devices; or

b) by regulation.

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 must be completed by the road authority and assessed by the Manager, Traffic Services, DIT. The application form is contained in the Appendix.

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

The prohibition of Wheeled Recreational Device use by traffic control devices 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 Commissioner of Highways, 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 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 and pavement marking as shown in Section 5 may be installed with the approval of the Manager, Traffic Services, DIT (for road authorities other than the Commissioner of Highways) or authorisation of the appropriate regional manager (for roads and road related areas under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways).

## 4. Assessment criteria for prohibition

The basis of the assessment criteria is to provide a safe environment for pedestrians, Wheeled Recreational 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 skaters pose a significant hazard to themselves or others. Factors which shall be considered are:

- the footpath has a relatively high pedestrian activity (ie. 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 skaters 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 hazardous;
- the width of the footpath is less than 1.2 metres in which case skaters may become a hazard to footpath users; or
- the primary footpath users are aged, young or the disabled such as near aged homes, kindergartens or hospitals.

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## 5. Traffic control devices for Wheeled Recreational Devices

The *Road Traffic Act* does not require the erection of traffic control devices 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 is prohibited through the use of traffic control devices only, signs shall be installed to define the area.

The signs and pavement markings shown in this section shall only be used where:

- a) a road or part of a road or area is prescribed by regulation (with installation of signs and pavement markings to be approved by the Manager, Traffic Services, DIT for road authorities other than the Commissioner of Highways, or appropriate regional manager for roads and road related areas under the care, control and management of the Commissioner of Highways); or
- b) approved under delegation by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (approval from the Commissioner of Highways).

The ALL SKATERS PROHIBITED sign (R6-SA104) should be placed at the extremities of the prohibited zone.



Figure 5.1 - ALL SKATERS PROHIBITED sign R6-SA104

The SKATERS PERMITTED sign (R6-SA103) may be placed on the back of the ALL SKATERS PROHIBITED signs (R6-SA104) at the extremities of the prohibition zone.



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Figure 5.2 – SKATERS PERMITTED sign R6-SA103

The 'All Skaters Prohibited' pavement marking may be used adjacent to the ALL SKATERS PROHIBITED signs (R6-SA104).



Figure 5.3 - 'All Skaters Prohibited' Pavement Marking

The pavement marking is not a regulatory device, however it may be used to supplement the signs.

### 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 carriageway 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, provided the Wheeled Recreational Device signs are in clear view of road users. The signs should not be placed on the same post as other traffic signs.

If the carriageway is marked with a dividing line regulatory signs for Wheeled Recreational Devices (R6-SA103 and R6-SA104) 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 carriageway side of the footpath. However it is preferable to install all of the signs on the same side of the footpath.

If the carriageway is not marked with a dividing line the signs should be installed on the carriageway side of the footpath as to indicate that Wheeled Recreational Devices are prohibited on both the footpath and the carriageway.

## 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 Pavement marking

The pavement marking may be used on the footpath, but shall not be marked on the carriageway. The pavement marking shall be installed in accordance with DIT's *Pavement Marking Manual*. The colour of the marking shall be white where used on bituminous surfaces, or yellow where used on concrete surfaces. Where the marking is used on other types of surfaces, either yellow or white markings may be selected to provide the best contrast with the footpath surface. Pavement markings may initially be installed in conjunction with signs, on the footpath at the beginning of any continuous length on the prohibited street.

Generally the pavement markings would not be necessary adjacent to the repeater signs, although they may be installed if the existing signs and markings have proved to be ineffective in deterring Wheeled Recreational Device users.



## Appendix A

### Application for Wheeled Recreational Devices Prohibition

The notes below should provide assistance in completing 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.

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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 usage 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) 8226 8222  
Email: DIT.MetroLetters@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"/>	To Commissioner of Highways: Recommended for approval.  <hr/> Signed: Manager, Traffic Services Date:
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**OR**

Regulation*  <input type="checkbox"/>  *Tick option requested	To Manager, Legislation Policy and Services: 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.  <hr/> Signed: Manager, Traffic Services Date:
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**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.)*