

KEEP CLEAR Pavement Markings





TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT Operational Instructions

KEEP CLEAR Pavement Markings - 2.23

AMENDMENT RECORD

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Manager, Traffic Services
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1. Scope

This Operational Instruction provides for the appropriate use of KEEP CLEAR pavement markings (KCPM) on roads with a speed limit less than 80 km/h. KEEP CLEAR pavement markings are not to be installed on roads where the speed limit is 80 km/h or greater.

This document shall be read in conjunction with Australian Standard *AS 1742.2 - 2009 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 2: Traffic Control Devices for General Use*.

When used in accordance with this Operational Instruction, these traffic control devices may be installed under the Minister's Instrument of General Approval and Delegation to Council, or the Instrument of Authorisation and Delegation to the Unit Manager, Traffic Solutions. Traffic control devices which vary from this Operational Instruction require the separate approval of the Manager, Traffic Services for each location prior to installation.

2. Background

Improved access from side roads onto a main road is one of the principal reasons for KCPM being requested, with apparent delays to side road traffic as the motivating factor. While it would be ideal for local traffic to have near immediate access to a main road, this is in practice an unrealistic expectation. At side roads near signalised intersections or crossings, it is common for drivers to inadvertently block the side road access and frustrate movements. Drivers should be aware that this is illegal and enforceable (Australian Road Rule (ARR) 128).

Observation of driver behaviour suggests that generally the queued traffic on a main road will allow left turners from side roads to enter the main stream at regular intervals. Right turners or cross traffic may experience longer delays. However, driver recognition of their legal obligations and common courtesy will generally result in a gap being left to allow the side road driver access to the main road. Drivers from side roads use these gaps at their own risk, bearing in mind that under the ARRs they too must be able to successfully clear the intersection prior to entering it.

In these circumstances, the presence of KCPMs can introduce a problem with side road drivers mistakenly believing they have a right to move in front of the stopped main road traffic, using the clear space as a holding area. This is illegal and enforceable (ARRs 96 and 128).

The use of KCPMs raises a number of other considerations including:

- a) Using KCPM at some locations and not at others may confuse some drivers into believing that it is only illegal to block an intersection where KEEP CLEAR is marked, particularly if its use is too wide spread.
- b) There is a danger that KCPM may promote a false sense of security, or be interpreted as a "right of way" by drivers using the side road when it comes to crossing the opposing traffic flow on the main road, for example:

- Right turners from the main road may cross in front of approaching traffic, expecting traffic to slow down and stop because of a KEEP CLEAR message. This is a concern particularly on multi-lane roads, where one lane of traffic stops clear of the markings, and the driver turning has the expectation that the other lane will also stop.
 - Similarly, right turners from a side road may cross in front of a stopped vehicle on the main road, also expecting approaching traffic in the other lanes to slow down and stop because of the KEEP CLEAR message.
 - Right turners from the main road may use the KEEP CLEAR message as a right of way turning path and fail to notice cyclists or pedestrians approaching on the inside.
 - In each of the above cases, large vehicles queued on the main road exacerbate difficulties by creating significant obstructions to visibility.
- c) The installation of unnecessary pavement messages on the road introduces an additional hazard to motorcyclists as road markings can become slippery, especially when wet. Therefore their use should be carefully controlled.

In view of the above, KCPM should be limited to situations where traffic blocking unsignalised T-intersections or passive crossings (refer to Section 3) or driveways (refer to Section 4) has the potential to cause a hazardous situation, or unreasonable delay, to other road users.

3. Unsignalised T-Intersections

The use of the KCPMs shall be reserved for locations where the below situations occur on a frequent basis (i.e. occurring numerous times during peak conditions) and have the potential to create a serious road safety hazard.

3.1 Regularly Blocked Right Turn Traffic

The installation of KCPM may be considered to assist those leaving the main road (as shown in Figure 3.1) where:

- A T-intersection is located near to a major traffic control point, such as an intersection controlled by traffic signals or a roundabout, a busy pedestrian crossing or a railway crossing, and
- Queued vehicles regularly block right turn traffic into the side road, resulting in real safety concerns on the main road (i.e. high potential for rear-end crashes and/or traffic queuing back into a major conflict point or across a pedestrian crossing).

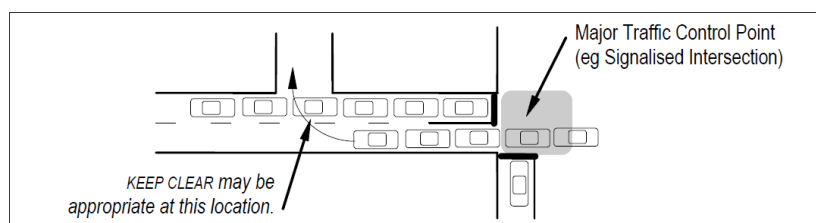


Figure 3.1: Regularly Blocked Right Turn Traffic

3.2 Access to Right and U-turn Sheltered Lanes

KCPM may be installed to provide direct side road access to a sheltered right turn or u-turn facility (an example is shown in Figure 3.3) where:

- A T-intersection is located near to a major traffic control point, such as an intersection controlled by traffic signals or a roundabout, a busy pedestrian crossing or a railway crossing, and
- Queued vehicles regularly block side road traffic accessing the right or u-turn facility.

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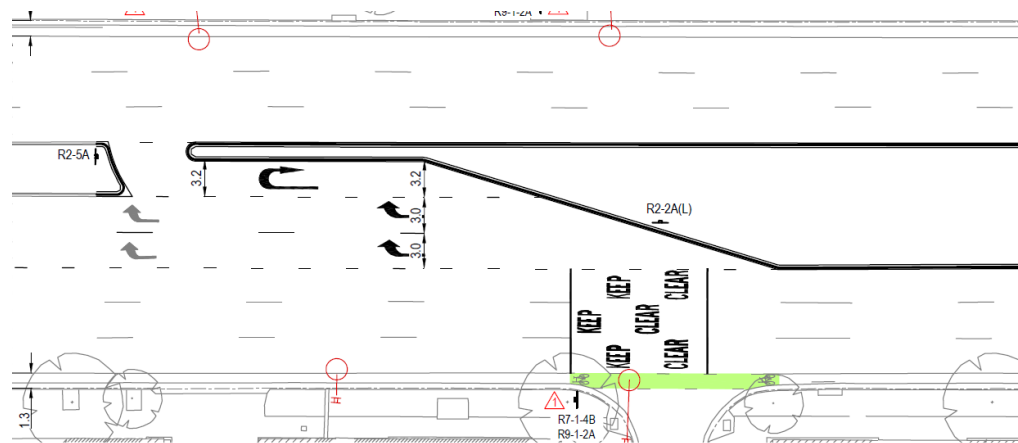


Figure 3.2: Side Road Access to a Right Turn and U-Turn Facility

3.3 Access to Passive Crossings

KCPM may be installed to provide access to formalised passive pedestrian or bicycle crossings (an example of KCPM used at a bicycle crossing is shown in Figure 3.3) where:

- Queued vehicles regularly block direct access to the formalised passive crossing creating potential to cause a hazardous situation, or unreasonable delay, to the crossing user.

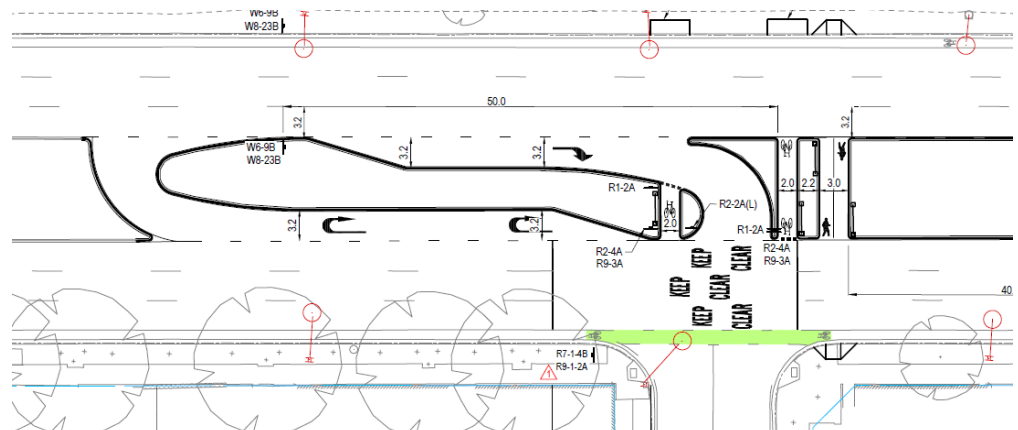


Figure 3.3: Access to a bicycle crossing

4. Driveways

4.1 Guidelines to the Use of KCPM

In general, KCPM should not be installed at driveways to private residences.

The markings should not be installed for businesses (car parks) unless there is a need to ensure the driveway remains clear to resolve a serious road safety issue for road users on the main road.

In general they should not be used as a device to minimise delays to drivers entering or leaving private business properties, particularly where adequate queuing space is available on the main road or within the property.

4.2 Emergency Service Access

Adjacent to an emergency service facility, where there is potential for vehicles to queue across the driveway to the facility, KCPM may be installed as a minimum treatment for providing emergency access to the road. Similarly, KCPM may also be installed where an emergency service facility is located on a side road and there is potential for vehicles on the main road to queue across that side road.

5. Installation

Pavement markings shall be installed in accordance with AS 1742.2 and the DIT *Pavement Marking Manual* (PMM) (<http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/standards/tass>). It is imperative that the KCPM be kept in pristine condition.

6. Approvals

The KCPM shall be shown on the appropriate traffic control drawings and shall be approved in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Instrument of Approval. The traffic impact statement shall document the need for the marking in accordance with this Operational Instruction.

If the situation arises where a KEEP CLEAR message is required and does not conform to this Operational Instruction, the matter should be discussed with the Manager, Traffic Services.

7. Legal enforcement

KCPM at intersections can be considered to be reinforcing the legal requirement of drivers not to block intersections. Further, Rule 96 of the ARR contains provisions for KCPM stating that drivers are not permitted to stop on an area of a road marked with the words "KEEP CLEAR" marked across all or part of a road, with or without continuous lines marked across all or part of the road.

8. References

- South Australian *Road Traffic Act* 1961
- Australian Road Rules
- Australian Standards AS 1742.2 *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 2: Traffic Control Devices for General Use*
- DIT *Pavement Marking Manual*

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