


Ride easy with new rules


From 1 January 2015, a few cycling road rules will change to make your ride on the road a safer and easier journey.



I can now ride across zebra crossings, as long as I stop and make sure it's safe to do so first.



It's now optional for me to ride in a bicycle lane.



I can now ride on a single lane roundabout like any other road user.

To improve the safety of cyclists, a few rules that may have seemed confusing or inconsistent have been updated.

Whether you ride on two wheels, four or more, we all need to get along and share the road safely.

Motorists, remember to stay wider of the rider and have a little patience and courtesy for your fellow road users as they follow these rules.

To find out more, visit www.qld.gov.au and search 'Bicycle road rules'.



You can ride across zebra crossings, but make sure you stop and it's safe to do so first

From 1 January 2015, a cyclist will be able to ride across a zebra or children's crossing, provided they:

- first come to a complete stop
- proceed slowly and safely
- give way to any pedestrian on the crossing
- keep to the left of any oncoming cyclist or person using a personal mobility device.

It's still ok to ride on a footpath too.

Q1. Why are these changes being made?

In 2013 a Queensland Parliamentary Committee looked at ways to improve the safety of cyclists.

As part of their review, they found that inconsistent rules for cyclists riding on crossings caused confusion for all road users, potentially putting cyclists in danger. This was because cyclists were only allowed to ride across crossings at traffic lights and had to wheel their bicycle over crossings without traffic lights such as a zebra or children's crossing.

This change will make the rules more consistent for cyclists and speed up their journey too, while the consistency will help motorists know what to expect when approaching crossings.

Q2. Will there be a penalty if a cyclist does not stop before riding across a crossing?

Yes. To ensure the safety of all road users, cyclists who do not stop before riding across a zebra or children's crossing may receive a fine of \$113. A maximum fine of \$2,277 may apply if the matter goes to court.

Q3. Will there be a penalty if a driver does not give way to a cyclist riding across a crossing?

Yes. The same penalties will apply as for other road users who do not give way to pedestrians at crossings. A driver or rider who does not give way to a cyclist riding on a zebra or children's crossing may receive 3 demerit points and a fine of \$341. A maximum fine of \$2,277 may apply if the matter goes to court.

It will be optional to ride in a bicycle lane

Q4. What bicycle lane changes are being made?

From 1 January 2015, a cyclist will be able to choose whether or not they want to ride in a bicycle lane. The lane is there for cyclists to use if they wish, whereas before they had to ride in it.

Q5. Why are these changes being made?

In 2013 a Queensland Parliamentary Committee looked at ways to improve the safety of cyclists and found that in some situations, riding in a bicycle lane could be dangerous for cyclists, for example when cars are parked there.

As legitimate road users, removing the mandatory requirement for cyclists to ride in bicycle lanes takes away an unnecessary limitation on their use of the road. It is also consistent with the rules for using other types of special purpose lanes, for example, buses do not have to use bus lanes and drivers do not have to use transit lanes.

Q6. Where on the road should a cyclist ride?

On a single lane road, a cyclist should ride as near as practicable to the far left side of the road. On a multi-lane road, a cyclist can take up any part of the lane space that suits them to continue their journey.

Cyclists can still use bicycle lanes when they are provided but it will no longer be mandatory.

Q7. Will there still be a penalty if a cyclist does not ride in a bicycle lane?

No. The penalty for a cyclist not using a bicycle lane will be removed.

You can now ride on a single lane roundabout like any other road user

Q8. What changes are being made to rules for cyclists on roundabouts?

From 1 January 2015, the rules for where a cyclist may ride on a roundabout will now be consistent whether riding through a single lane or multi-lane roundabout.

From this date, cyclists will not have to ride on the far left side of the lane on a single lane roundabout. Cyclists will be allowed to ride on any part of the road appropriate for their point of exit on single lane roundabouts.

Q9. Why are these changes being made?

In 2013 a Queensland Parliamentary Committee found that inconsistent rules for cyclists riding on roundabouts caused confusion for all road users. This could cause dangerous situations for cyclists.

To improve safety, cyclists will now be able to choose whether they feel safer keeping to the far left side of a roundabout or riding in a lane like other road users. Cyclists are legitimate road users and will now have equal rights to other road users on roundabouts.

Q10. Will there be a penalty if a cyclist does not ride to the far left side of a single lane roundabout?

No. There will no longer be a penalty if a cyclist does not keep to the far left side of the road on a roundabout.