

Sharing the Road with Oversize Vehicles

The **distance** the pilot and escort vehicles travel ahead of the oversize vehicle and the gap between them **will vary** depending on the speed of oncoming traffic, speed of the oversize vehicle, the road geometry and the availability of pull-over areas for the oncoming traffic. The pilot and escort vehicles should be a **sufficient distance ahead** to enable all types of vehicles to **pull off the road** before the oversize vehicle reaches them.

Example of an Oversize Vehicle Convoy



1 Heavy Vehicle Pilots (Pilots) are used to provide advanced warning to other road users that an oversize vehicle is approaching and facilitate the safe movement of the oversize vehicles by directing traffic in their vicinity.

Directions given by the Pilots are lawful directions and must be obeyed.

Pilot Vehicles are easily recognised by a large yellow reflective sign with the words "Oversize Load Ahead" and amber flashing warning lights mounted on the roof.

Pilot Vehicles escorting loads in excess of 4.5 metres in width will also display white flashing lights on the front of the vehicle.

The number of Pilots accompanying an oversize vehicle will vary depending on the complexity of the load and their positioning will vary depending on where they are needed to safely manage traffic.

2 Traffic Escort Wardens manage the safe movement of larger oversize vehicles, typically oversize vehicles in excess of 5.5 metres in width and/or 40 metres in length.

Traffic Escort Vehicles have red and blue flashing lights on the roof and have "Traffic Escort" displayed on both sides of the vehicle. Most Traffic Escort Vehicles now have a blue and white sign with the words "Oversize Escort".

3 Oversize vehicles often travel in **convoys**, meaning there will be two or more oversize vehicles travelling together, as shown in the above example.

The number of oversize vehicles allowed to travel in a convoy depends on the road terrain. Typically, only two oversize vehicles can travel in convoy, however three oversize vehicles often travel in convoy on Great Northern Hwy north of Wubin, and four oversize vehicles often travel in convoy on Great Northern Hwy north of Newman.

Under the Road Traffic Code 2000, you must follow the directions given by a Pilot and a Traffic Escort Warden when facilitating the movement of an oversize vehicle. So, **always follow directions** given by Heavy Vehicle Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens, as the directions are being given for your safety.

Take care to ensure you only pull back onto the road or move through an intersection when you are sure all vehicles in the oversize vehicle convoy have passed.

Do not risk overtaking an oversize vehicle. **Be patient** and wait for the oversize vehicle to move aside and the Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens to clear traffic.

If the rear pilot waves you past or calls you over the UHF radio to advise that it's safe to overtake, proceed with extreme caution. As the driver, **you are still responsible** for ensuring it is safe to cross the centreline and overtake.



Sharing the Roads with Oversize Vehicles

Slow down as soon as you see a Pilot Vehicle or Traffic Escort Vehicle and **be prepared** to pull off the road and stop if necessary.

Many oversize vehicles take up more than half the road width, or they may need to travel towards the centre of the road to avoid power lines, trees or other roadside items.



- **Stay alert** - you can't always see what's ahead, so it's important you drive to the road conditions.
- **Slow down** - seeing a Heavy Vehicle Pilot or Traffic Escort Warden vehicle is a warning that there's something big up ahead.
- **Move left** - oversize loads and large agricultural vehicles can take up more than half the road or may need to travel in the middle of the road to avoid power lines or other roadside items.
- **Prepare to stop and follow directions** - Heavy Vehicle Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens are there to provide directions on how to safely navigate the oversize load.



KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN IT'S **BIGGER** THAN YOU

Visit our **Bigger Than You** webpage for more information by following the QR Code:



#BiggerThanYou

Road transport is essential to Western Australia's economy.

Due to constraints for oversize vehicles, such as overhead structures, drive over structures, road side furniture etc., they are restricted to the roads they can travel on. If you see them on your local roads, it is because they need to use these roads to manoeuvre through the area.

It is important to be patient when sharing the road with oversize vehicles.

If you need to communicate with an oversize vehicle, the Pilots or the Traffic Escort Warden, they can be contacted on UHF Channel 40.

