Road transport makes a vital contribution to Western Australia’s economy.

Due to the State’s remote and rugged nature, there is often no alternative but to move very large items by road.

Vehicles carrying oversize loads come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, typically moving much slower than ordinary traffic and being much wider than other vehicles.

The movement of oversize loads by road is strictly regulated to ensure safety for all road users.

Sharing the road with oversize loads

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

Many oversize loads take up more than half the road’s width or may need to travel towards the centre of the road to avoid power lines or roadside fixtures.

It is often safest to **move as far as possible to the left**, and be prepared to stop if necessary, to allow oversize loads to pass.

**Always follow directions** given by Heavy Vehicle Pilots or Traffic Escort Wardens.

Road transport makes a vital contribution to Western Australia’s economy.

Due to the State’s remote and rugged nature, there is often no alternative but to move very large items by road.

Vehicles carrying oversize loads come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, typically moving much slower than ordinary traffic and being much wider than other vehicles.

The movement of oversize loads by road is strictly regulated to ensure safety for all road users.

Sharing the road with oversize loads

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

Many oversize loads take up more than half the road’s width or may need to travel towards the centre of the road to avoid power lines or roadside fixtures.

It is often safest to **move as far as possible to the left**, and be prepared to stop if necessary, to allow oversize loads to pass.

**Always follow directions** given by Heavy Vehicle Pilots or Traffic Escort Wardens.
Under the Road Traffic Code 2000, Heavy Vehicle Pilots and Traffic Escort Wardens have the same powers as WA Police Officers in relation to directing traffic for the purpose of facilitating the movement of an oversize load.

Take care to ensure that you only pull back onto the road or move through an intersection when you are sure that the road ahead is clear.

Do not risk overtaking an oversize load without ensuring the road ahead is clear. When overtaking be prepared for unexpected wind buffeting and if possible, keep two tyres on the road surface.

**Metropolitan:**
Ideal distance 500 m, minimum distance 300 m between the front pilot and the Traffic Escort Warden.

**Regional:**
Ideal distance 1.5 - 2 km, minimum distance 800 m between the front pilot and the Traffic Escort Warden.

**Heavy Vehicle Pilots** are used to warn other road users of the presence of an oversize load or convoy. They give advanced warning for all road users and provide lawful directions to help ensure your safety.

The number of Heavy Vehicle Pilots used varies according to the dimensions of the oversize load, or the complexity of the transport task. For loads that require two pilots, the pilot vehicles will be positioned at the front and rear of the convoy.

Pilot vehicles are easily recognised by a large, yellow reflective sign with the words ‘Over Size Load Ahead’ on the roof and amber flashing lights.

Pilot vehicles escorting an oversize load exceeding 4.5 m in width will also display white flashing lights on the front of the vehicle.

**Traffic Escort Wardens** ensure the safe travel of all oversize movements in excess of 5.5 metres in width and/or over 40 metres in length.

Traffic escort vehicles have red and blue flashing lights on the roof and have the words “Traffic Escort” clearly displayed on both sides of the vehicle and on the bonnet.

**Convoys** are two or more oversize vehicles travelling together. Convoys of oversize vehicles may be escorted by one or two pilot vehicles depending on the size of the load.

**In brief...**
When you see a Heavy Vehicle Pilot and/or a Traffic Escort Warden;

1. **Slow down**
2. **Move to the left**
3. **Be prepared to stop**
4. Always follow directions of the Pilot or Traffic Escort Warden

Pilot vehicles escorting an oversize load exceeding 4.5 m in width will also display white flashing lights on the front of the vehicle.

**Metropolitan:**
Ideal distance 500 m, minimum distance 300 m between the front pilot and the Traffic Escort Warden.

**Regional:**
Ideal distance 1.5 - 2 km, minimum distance 800 m between the front pilot and the Traffic Escort Warden.