

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when driving with road trains.

“The road is my workplace — and I’m trained to keep it safe. But I can’t do it alone. I need your help and we need to communicate.”

Safe stopping

Don't cut in front of road trains as they slow for traffic lights or when out on the highway. They need more road space than you to slow down and stop. Don't compromise safety, be patient.

Do not overtake turning vehicle

The sign, “DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE”, warns that the vehicle needs room when turning. Don't move into the blind spots to the left of the road train cabin or drive directly behind the trailer. If you can't see the road train mirrors, the driver can't see you.

Roundabouts and traffic lights

Stay clear when behind a road train at roundabouts and traffic lights. Road trains often make wide turns and sometimes need the entire road to manoeuvre. To reduce traffic congestion, road train drivers often slow down significantly to avoid having to come to a complete stop.

Road positioning

Like most heavy vehicles, a road train often uses the entire lane, so avoid travelling right on the centreline. Stick to the left side in your lane to give yourself ample space, particularly if towing. Park well clear of the roadway and use your parking lights during times of low visibility. Be sure to use your hazard lights if you are in a hazardous position.

Lights at night

Dip your lights before negotiating a crest or curve. Dip your lights when behind a road train and always check your headlight alignment if your vehicle is heavily laden or towing a caravan or trailer.

Being overtaken

When being overtaken by a road train, maintain your speed and don't move off the road. Only slow once the road train moves out to pass. When the road train has passed, flash your headlights to let the driver know that it is safe to move back in. Don't drive in convoys, especially if you are towing a caravan.

Overtake with care

Stay well back when behind a road train. If preparing to pass, be certain you can see sufficient clear road ahead. When overtaking, signal, move out and pass quickly but sensibly. Don't move back in until you see both the road train's headlights in your mirrors and don't slow down. Only overtake when you are confident you can safely do so.

Single lane and unsealed highways

When approaching an oncoming road train on a single lane highway, slow down, gradually pull off the road and drive slowly on the shoulder. On unsealed roads, slow down and safely pull to the left as far as possible. Keep your distance when travelling behind road trains on unsealed roads to allow sufficient visibility. Where dust or rain obscures vision, turn on your lights to help let road train drivers know you are there.

Beat fatigue – stay awake, Coffee Brake!

Fatigue develops slowly, often without the driver realising they're too tired to drive safely. Plan your trip with regular breaks, and ensure a good night's sleep before you start your trip. In the NT, look for roadhouses supporting the Coffee Brake program and call in for a free coffee for the driver.

we share the roads, we share the safety.

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