



# Wide Loads and Your Responsibilities

A high proportion of wide loads are large machinery, mining components, agricultural equipment or buildings. Wide loads can be up to 9.5 metres wide, taking up the majority of the road or may need to travel in the middle of the road due to height restrictions.

## Your wide load responsibilities

- Keep clear
- Give them right of way
- Slow down
- Obey all directions from pilot vehicles and police escorts

It's your responsibility to keep clear of a wide load so care must be taken when approaching from the front or rear of a wide load vehicle or escort vehicle. Wide loads can often weigh hundreds of tonnes and it's impossible for them to stop suddenly so please give them right of way.

## If your following a wide load please:

- Be patient
- Do not overtake unless directed to do so



Wide loads are accompanied by a pilot/escort vehicle and/or police vehicle travelling at the front or rear of the wide load. The escort vehicles are there to help direct traffic around the wide load and ensure that the wide load travels to its destination safely. The escort vehicle has limited time and distance to deal with oncoming traffic. If your travelling at high speed you will have little time to get out of the way or pull over.

## Watch your speed

Your speed can be a major factor, you need to ensure that you are travelling at the speed limit or slower to give yourself time to take appropriate action to move your vehicle from the roadway if necessary.





If there's a single pilot vehicle the wide load approaching you is between 3.5 metres and 4.5 metres wide. For loads over 4.5 metres wide you will see multiple pilot vehicles as well as police escort vehicles. The police escort vehicles will direct you to stop by the roadside until the load passes safely.

## Obey all directions from pilot vehicles and police escorts

By law escort vehicle operators are permitted to direct motorists in order to prevent injury or property damage. Please follow all instructions for the welfare of yourself and others. When an operator asks you to stop or slow down or waves you off the road, you must follow their instructions. Please move from the road way as soon as you see the police escort vehicle approaching you.

## What to do when you first see a pilot vehicle

All pilot vehicles are equipped with flashing lights and a sign saying oversize load ahead.

When you first see the pilot vehicle don't panic, just simply slow down and prepare to move over or stop in a safe area. Follow all directions from the pilot vehicle.

If there is a police escort and you have not already moved from the road way you will be directed to do so. Failing to comply with that direction is an offence for which you can be charged.

Wide loads can be an inconvenience but with a little patience you can reach your destination safely.



Pilot vehicles and police escorts are there for your safety so please take appropriate action when approaching a wide load.

