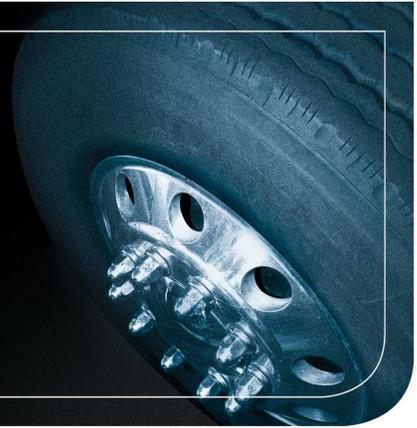


# The Right Gear

Information for heavy vehicles travelling down the Crafers-Adelaide section of the Princes Highway



## Trucks & buses must use low gear

Heavy vehicles can safely negotiate the gradient on the highway if a low enough gear is engaged before starting the steep descent from Crafers to Adelaide.

**TRUCKS  
& BUSES  
MUST USE  
LOW GEAR**

**NEXT 7 km**

At the crest, 100 metres past the Crafers Interchange, there is a regulatory sign - enforceable by law under Australian Road Rule 108 - "Trucks & Buses must use low gear - Next 7km".

This sign means that it is a legal requirement for all drivers of trucks or buses to use a gear that is low enough to limit the speed of the vehicle without the use of a primary brake over the next 7km.

After the Crafers Interchange, slow down before beginning the descent towards Adelaide and select a low gear, which should be one or two gears lower than you would use coming up the hill. Use your engine exhaust brake all the way down the highway until the approach to the Glen Osmond intersection.

## Warning signs

Warning signs to remind drivers of the steep descent have been erected on the down track near the Old Carey Gully Road overpass and the Stirling and Crafers interchanges.

## Overheight vehicles

The height clearance for the Heysen Tunnels is 5.3 metres (this is also the clearance height for the Mt Osmond and Crafers interchanges).



Overheight warning signs are located before both approaches to the Heysen Tunnels and work in conjunction with laser beam vehicle height detectors to detect vehicles that are too high to safely transit the tunnels.

When the height detector identifies such a vehicle, the overheight sign flashes to direct the driver to stop in the stopping lane provided to the left of the road.

The overheight detector also automatically sends an alarm to the department. Upon confirming the presence of a stopped vehicle via television cameras, police or emergency services will attend the site to assist the driver to turn the vehicle around. Turning around at the entrance to the

### Further information

Call: 1800 018 313

Visit:

[http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/content/adelaide\\_to\\_melbourne\\_road\\_corridor/south\\_eastern\\_freeway](http://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/content/adelaide_to_melbourne_road_corridor/south_eastern_freeway)



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tunnels has been provided for by a break in the median strip.

Drivers may also use the emergency phones located nearby, or their own phone, to call the emergency contact number 1800 018 313.

## Arrester beds

The emergency stopping facilities provided for out-of-control heavy vehicles are of the form of gravel arrester beds. Arrester beds are highly effective in stopping heavy vehicles and their effectiveness is well established both in Australia and overseas.

The main stopping force is the drag caused as the vehicle sinks into the deep bed of gravel. In addition, for an arrester bed that slopes upwards, gravity also helps stop the vehicle. In terms of effect on the driver or vehicle, driving into an arrester bed is much less violent than emergency braking, and without injury to the driver or adverse effects to the vehicle.

Drivers of out-of-control vehicles must enter an arrester bed at the earliest opportunity and must not try to ride it out to the bottom of the hill.

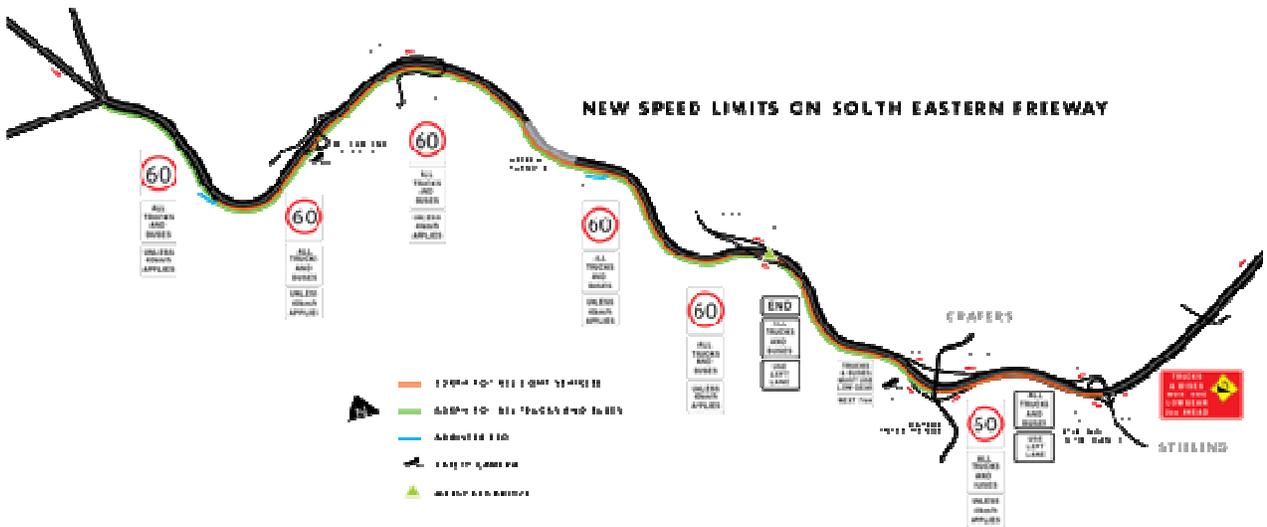
Drivers continuing downhill in an out-of-control vehicle risk serious injury or death to themselves or other road users. There are no other opportunities to stop the vehicle after passing the arrester beds and although the gradient of the road becomes less severe, it nevertheless continues through a signalised intersection and into metropolitan Adelaide.

There are two fully signed arrester beds on the left side of the Princes Highway between Crafers and Adelaide. The first is located prior to the entrance to the Heysen Tunnel and the second is three kilometres further down just past the Mt Osmond Interchange.

The arrester bed signs display the distance to the arrester bed at 600m, 400m and 200m respectively, with the 600m sign showing a symbolic representation of the arrester bed. Finally, a sign clearly indicates the entrance to the arrester bed.

Removal of a vehicle from the arrester bed will require the use of tow trucks. The department must be contacted by using the emergency phone or calling 1800 018 313 direct.

**For a safe descent - use the right gear**



### Further information

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