

glossary

Accelerate – increasing speed.

Approaching – getting closer to, from any direction.

Approved helmet – as defined under section 270 of the Australian Road Rules

BAC – blood alcohol concentration given as grams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.

BrAC – breath alcohol content given as grams of alcohol per 210 litres of exhaled breath.

Blind spot (see also 'head check') – area beside and behind that is not seen in mirrors.

Buffer/buffering – positioning the motorcycle to create maximum space around you, away from hazards.

Colliding – crashing into.

Crash avoidance space – the space a rider needs in order to prevent a potential crash.

Combination (motorcycle and sidecar) – a motorcycle with a sidecar attached.

Compulsory – necessary, required, must do.

Contact patch (tyre) – the part of the tyre that is in contact with the road.

Covering the brakes – where the rider's fingers are over the front brake lever and their toes over the rear brake

pedal without activating the brakes. See also 'setting up the brakes'.

Counter steering – the action of applying slight pressure on the handlebar in the opposite direction of the turn to cause the motorcycle to lean into the turn.

Direct steering – the action of turning the handlebars in the direction you want the motorcycle to turn.

Dual-purpose motorcycle – a motorcycle made to ride on sealed or unsealed roads (see trail motorcycles).

Edge Filtering – passing between a line of traffic and the kerb/shoulder of the road or parked vehicles.

Evidence of identity – documents that establish who you are and that you use a particular name.

Fairing – bodywork designed to deflect wind.

Fatigue – the experience of feeling sleepy, tired or exhausted. Fatigue affects your body and your ability to ride safely.

Footpeg – pegs attached to the motorcycle to support your feet.

Friction point – where the clutch begins to transmit drive to the rear wheel.

Full face helmet – a helmet fitted with a visor that has inbuilt chin protection and so covers all of the rider's face.

Goggles – eye protection that covers and forms a seal around the eyes.

Hazard – any object or feature, fixed or moving, that contains an element of actual or potential danger.

Head check – looking over the shoulder to the left or right to make sure that nothing is in the blind spot. Also known as a ‘shoulder check’.

Intersection – where two or more roads meet or join.

Lane – an area of road marked by continuous or broken lines, designed for use by a single line of traffic.

Lane filtering – riding a motorcycle at low speed, less than 30km/h, between vehicles that have either stopped or moving slowly and travelling in the same direction.

Lane splitting – riding between stationary or moving traffic at an unsafe speed of more than 30km/h.

Lean angle – how far the motorcycle leans in a corner or turn.

Lean in – the physical movement of the rider’s upper body into the turn and slightly forward so that the motorcycle’s lean angle is reduced.

Lean out – the physical movement of the rider’s upper body away from the turn to allow the motorcycle lean angle to increase and tighten a turning circle.

Lean with – where the rider leans at approximately the same angle as the motorcycle.

METAL – The Motorcyclist Education Training and Licensing program that delivers rider training courses.

Multi-lane road – a road with more than one lane in the same direction.

Oncoming – a vehicle approaching, and travelling in the opposite direction.

Overtaking – to pass a vehicle travelling in the same direction as you.

Pannier – luggage boxes fitted to the sides of the motorcycles.

Pillion – motorcycle passenger.

Pot holes – holes in the road surface.

Power to weight ratio – engine power – in kilowatts to weight of motorcycle – in tonnes including the rider.

Pressure (tyre) – the measure of how hard a tyre is inflated.

Protective clothing – clothing designed to reduce rider injury and fatigue.

Rack – carrying tray/frame.

Rev – to increase engine speed.

Revs – engine speed measured in RPM (revolutions per minute).

Rider Knowledge test – a computer based test of the road rules.

Road – an area that is opened to or used by the public.

Road-related area – includes an area that divides a road, a footpath, nature strip, cycleway and parking areas.

Road motorcycle – motorcycle made primarily to ride on sealed roads.

Scanning – moving the eyes to different areas to build up a picture of events.

Setting up the brakes – the action of taking the freerplay out of the front and rear brake levers (see 'two stage braking').

Sidecar – a wheeled attachment fitted to the left side of a motorcycle (see combination).

Size (engine) – usually measured in millilitres or cubic centimetres.

Skid – when a tyre loses grip on the road surface.

Speed limit – the legal maximum speed for any particular stretch of road, licence or vehicle.

Speeding – excessive or inappropriate speed, including not adjusting your speed to suit the conditions or speed limit.

Squeeze (brakes) – progressively applying more pressure to the brake levers (see 'two-stage braking').

Stationary – not moving.

Suspension – front forks, rear shock absorbers, springs.

Swerving – quickly turning in one direction.

Tailgater – someone who follows other vehicles too closely to be safe.

Three-second gap – a space between vehicles big enough for three seconds of time to pass between them.

Throttle – a control used to vary the motorcycle's engine speed.

Traction – grip between a tyre and the ground.

Trail motorcycles – motorcycles built primarily for riding on unsealed roads.

Tread – the pattern of rubber on the surface of a tyre that grips the road.

Two-stage braking – a braking technique consisting of setting up and squeezing the brake levers.

U-turn – a complete change of direction; approximately a 180-degree turn.

Visor – clear, plastic shield on the front of a helmet designed to protect your face.

Wheel track – the mark on the road made by other vehicles' tyres.