

# Wide centre line treatment and audio tactile line marking

Crashes involving vehicles crossing over the centre line, causing head-on collisions, are one of the most severe types of crashes.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads is committed to improving safety along Queensland roads, particularly on long stretches of highways where driver fatigue and unsafe overtaking can contribute to these head-on crashes.

In recent years wide centre line treatments have become internationally recognised as an effective and relatively low-cost measure to reduce head-on collisions.

## Wide centre line treatments

Wide centre line treatments replace the existing dividing centre line/s on a road with two new lines approximately one metre apart, which creates a greater distance between opposing directions of traffic. This extra distance between opposing directions of traffic provides additional reaction time if a driver unintentionally drifts across the centre line towards oncoming traffic.

Wide centre line treatments also increase road safety by providing additional space when motorists are passing cyclists or vehicles that are stopped on the side of the road, as well as when they are overtaking, as it allows for better visibility of oncoming traffic.

The treatment is often applied to heavily trafficked, high-speed roads and highways and usually requires widening of the road shoulder to accommodate the wider centre line.

A wide centre line treatment is different to a painted median strip in that it is generally over a much longer section of the road than a painted median strip is.

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“ Wide centre line treatments are often combined with audio tactile line markings, making an even more effective safety measure.

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## Audio tactile line markings

Road line markings, including wide centre line treatments, may be supplemented with audio tactile line markings which further assist motorists in avoiding crashes. Audio tactile line markings are small raised white bumps adjacent to line markings.

These audible line markings alert motorists through both sound and vibration when they are veering out of their lane into oncoming traffic or the edge of the road.



Caption: Wide centre line treatment with audio tactile line marking





## Understanding wide centre line treatments

Although wide centre line treatments look different to standard centre lines, the road rules remain the same.

The lines are either painted as dashed or solid white lines, depending on whether overtaking is permitted in that section of road. Dashed white lines are used on sections of roads where overtaking is allowed and solid white line/s are used when overtaking is not allowed. Motorists should pay attention to the type of centre line marking that is on their side of the road.

*The diagrams below show the four scenarios you will encounter with wide centre line treatments.*



The department first trialled wide centre line treatments with audio tactile line markings in 2011 on a 56km section of the Bruce Highway. This trial recorded a significant reduction in crashes.

Since then the department has rolled out both wide centre line treatments and audio tactile line markings across more than 700kms of Queensland roads, including our three major highways – the Bruce Highway, Cunningham Highway and Warrego Highway.



OVERTAKING  
NOT PERMITTED



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NOT PERMITTED



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PERMITTED  
WHEN SAFE



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