



Transport inspectors and road closures

The Department of Transport and Main Roads aims to keep Queensland drivers and their families safe on our roads. During disasters, it is important that freight routes remain open and essential supplies reach communities in need.

Recent changes in legislation mean transport inspectors now play a greater role during road closures and natural disasters.

Transport inspectors can provide up-to-date information on road closures and provide advice about:

- alternative routes, other temporary road closures and road signage education
- how to get permits, approvals to move freight, and load restrictions on roads and bridges if you are a heavy vehicle driver.

Your safety is important to us

When driving, you may encounter road closure advisory signs like these:



The above signs will advise you if the road is closed or if you need to exercise caution due to changed road conditions.

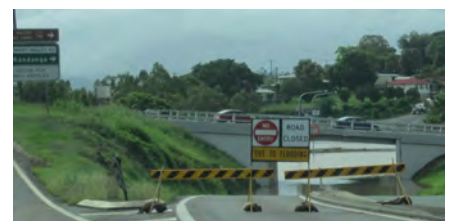
When roads are closed due to floods or a no entry sign is displayed, you must comply as these signs are enforceable by law.

Enforceable signs (restricted road use notices and no entry signs)

When you encounter regulatory signs, you must:

- not drive contrary to the sign
- obey directions from Transport Inspectors
- produce your licence when required
- take detours as directed by Queensland Police or Transport Inspectors.

Failure to stop or obey the directions of a transport inspector may endanger your life and the lives of others, damage the road network, and/or result in an on-the-spot penalty infringement notice or court proceedings. In some cases, where there is a critical need, a written approval may be given by the department or by Queensland Police to drive through a restricted road use notice sign. This does not include a no entry sign.



Frequently asked questions about transport inspectors and road closures

Who are transport inspectors?

Transport Inspectors are highly-trained employees of the Queensland Government who play a major role in contributing to the safety of Queensland drivers and protecting the state's road infrastructure.

Transport Inspectors are authorised under the *Transport Operations Road Use Management Act 1995* to enforce transport laws.

What is a road closure?

Road closures can occur at any time and on any road. A road may be closed as a result of natural disasters like flooding, cyclones or bushfires. Similar to police officers, transport inspectors enforce road closures to keep drivers and their passengers safe and to assist all road users in reaching their destinations safely.

Why are transport inspectors involved in road closures?

In emergency situations, police are often stretched to the limit. Transport inspectors play a vital role in ensuring the safety of drivers and vehicles on the road and protecting the state's road infrastructure.

Can a transport inspector stop me?

Yes. A transport inspector has the power to stop all drivers of all vehicles any time for the purpose of enforcing restricted road use notices and no entry signs used for temporary road closures.

I hear transport inspector powers have increased since the 2011 floods and Cyclone Yasi. What has changed?

New legislation was introduced at the end of October 2011 giving transport inspectors additional powers to stop a person in control of a private vehicle, at any time, for the purpose of enforcing restricted road use notices and no entry signs. You may also be requested to produce your driver licence. These powers allow transport inspectors to better assist Queensland Police in enforcing road closures and road restrictions.

I am a transport operator and I need to get my consignment delivered. The road is closed and Transport Inspectors have advised me I can't proceed. What can I do?

Ask transport inspectors if they are able to suggest an alternative route or a time when you can proceed. Alternatively, visit the Traffic and Travel Information website at www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone **13 19 40** for the latest information on major state road closures, restrictions and openings.

If a driver who frequently uses a road which has restrictions placed on it cannot meet the restriction criteria (eg. load restriction), they may be able to go past a restricted road use notice in a limited number of circumstances in the form of a written approval.

Why do I need to stop for a transport inspector?

For your safety and the safety of others, you may be asked to stop. It is an offence to disobey a lawful direction to stop. Failure to stop may result in an on-the-spot penalty infringement notice or court proceeding.

Transport inspectors are there to help drivers and communities, protect lives and vital infrastructure. They understand your concerns and are acting on advice from Queensland Police, emergency services and structural engineers.



If it's flooded, forget it.

Keeping yourself and your family safe during a disaster should be your first priority. Being prepared, working together as a team and knowing what to do is your best protection.

Here are some transport tips to help you prepare:

- Do not travel unless absolutely necessary.
- If you must travel on a road, visit www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au or phone **13 19 40** before leaving to find out what roads are open.
- Be familiar with escape routes. Use travel routes specified by local authorities, which are normally roads and bridges not prone to flooding.
- Make sure your petrol tank is full and your vehicle has been regularly serviced by a mechanic.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your vehicle.
- Keep a first aid kit in your vehicle.
- Keep a portable and battery-operated radio, television or laptop and extra batteries in your vehicle.
- Follow the instructions of the Queensland Police, transport inspectors and local emergency officials.
- If told to do so, evacuate immediately.

Listen to Queensland Police and transport inspectors. They will advise you when it is safe to proceed.