

Shared Zones

Fact Sheet



Transport
for NSW

AUGUST 2012



What is a Shared Zone?

A Shared Zone is a road or network of roads where the road space is shared safely by vehicles and pedestrians. The maximum speed limit is always 10 km/h.

There may be no road lines, kerb or gutter in a Shared Zone to show that pedestrians and vehicles are equal. Drivers must give way to pedestrians at all times.

Vehicles can only stop in a Shared Zone if they obey the parking signs and park in marked bays, if they are provided.

Drivers travelling at a lower speed are better able to control their vehicles and safely avoid impact with other road users.



Why 10 km/h?

In keeping with the Safe System approach to road safety adopted in NSW, speed limits are set to reflect the risk to road users and be more forgiving of human error.

10 km/h is close to the walking speed for most pedestrians.

Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable in the road environment. Unlike the occupants of vehicles, they have no protection. They can also be difficult to see and their behaviour may be unpredictable, making it difficult for drivers to avoid them.

How are these zones created?

Shared Zones reflect local needs and where quality of life takes precedence over ease of movement. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has installed Shared Zones in areas with high levels of pedestrian activity.

Local councils, in partnership with RMS, design and install shared zones in accordance with the Transport for NSW's Shared Zone Guidelines.

How will I know a Shared Zone?

A Shared Zone looks different. The street environment makes drivers and pedestrians aware of the different driving conditions.



Signs like this are used to clearly define the beginning of a Shared Zone.

A sign like this is installed on each exit road from the zone.



You'll see different surface texture and traffic calming features, such as raised threshold.

Pedestrian safety

Transport for NSW, RMS and local councils are strongly focused on pedestrian safety. They recognise that everyone is a pedestrian at some time and should be able to walk safely.

The establishment of Shared Zones is part of a strategy to reduce the incidence of injury and death among pedestrians.

Changing the way streets are used improves the quality of life. Streets become places for people, not just traffic.



Comments

The success of a Shared Zone depends on community involvement and participation during their development and operation.

Send your comments to:

Council

Attach Council details for comments

Roads and Maritime Services

Website: www.rms.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 13 22 13
Mail: Locked Bag 928
North Sydney NSW 2059

For more fact sheets on speed management, visit saferroadsnsw.com.au

Transport for NSW

For further enquiries
13 22 13

The information in this brochure is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.