

# Guidelines for using Traffic Warning Devices



**STOCK  
ON ROAD**

For people involved in the movement of  
stock on roads



Government  
of South Australia

This document has been prepared by Transport SA for use by people in charge of stock being moved in a controlled manner on roads. Assistance in preparing this document was received from the South Australian Farmers Federation, SA Dairy Farmers Association and the Local Government Association.

This document has been endorsed by the South Australian Farmers Federation and has been approved and authorised for use by Transport SA and its authorised agents.

This pamphlet is intended to provide readers with a guide to the relevant law. It is not intended to substitute for legal advice. While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of material contained in this publication, no responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions.

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## Why Should Signs Be Used?

In the absence of legislation dealing with traffic control requirements for the movement of stock on road reserves, Transport SA strongly recommends the use of temporary stock warning signs when moving stock along or across roads.

The Wrongs Act, 1936 requires a person who has management and control of an animal to ensure a reasonable standard of care in the control of that animal. Taking reasonable care involves warning others of any dangerous or mischievous propensity that the animal might exhibit.

Using these signs will assist in demonstrating that a level of care has been taken to warn other road users of the hazard of stock on, or near a road. Correct use of the signs, as per the guidelines contained in this document will mean that:

- drivers will have a clear view of the signs as they approach and have suitable time to react to the sign before encountering stock.
- drivers can reliably expect to encounter stock within the road reserve, or at least evidence of stock about to enter, or having just left the road reserve, within a short time of passing the signs.

It is important to note that the signs only warn drivers of the hazard and do not impose any legal requirement on drivers, nor do they provide full legal protection, under the law of negligence, to persons responsible for the movement of stock on roads.

## What Type of Sign Should be Used?

The recommended sign has the words “STOCK ON ROAD” in black letters on a fluorescent red/orange background. The dimensions and specifications for the sign are shown on the sign drawing (TES 6396), which is available from Transport SA. A copy of the drawing is contained inside the back cover of this booklet.

Signs and stands are to be supplied by the Stockowner. The signs are commercially available as a rigid sign or as a flexible, roll-up sign. Sign stands are also commercially available.

An orange flag of approximately 450 mm x 300 mm may also be used to improve the visibility of the signs. However, the use of a flag with the sign is not compulsory.

**Note:** *Some Stockowners may be using a STOCK ON ROAD sign with a yellow background which was an older Transport SA standard. These signs may continue to be used but any new or replacement sign should be the red/orange signs as shown in drawing TES 6396.*



## Guidelines for Using “Stock On Road” Signs

It is strongly recommended that the signs be used in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 1) Only signs conforming with the drawing TES 6396 should be used to maintain Statewide consistency.
- 2) Signs should only be used when stock is on, or about to enter the road reserve. The signs must not be left on the road on a permanent basis and need to be removed within a reasonable time of stock leaving the road reserve. Using a permanent sign which is temporarily covered is not a suitable alternative to removing the signs.
- 3) Signs should be placed on the shoulder. They may be temporarily fixed to a rigid guide post but should not be fixed to other road signs. If sign stands are used they need to be capable of remaining upright and in place under windy conditions.
- 4) Signs are not suitable for use at night. For road safety reasons stock should not remain, or move within the road reserve during periods of darkness or other times of poor visibility.
- 5) Signs should be visible to drivers over an approach distance of 200 m and placed at least 250 m in advance of the stock crossing site, paddock access gate being used, or where stock may be encountered (Figure 1).
- 6) If stock is being moved along a road, the signs should never be more than 5 km in advance of the stock location. This means that the signs will need to be moved along the road shoulder at regular intervals if the droving distance is greater than 5 km (Figure 2).

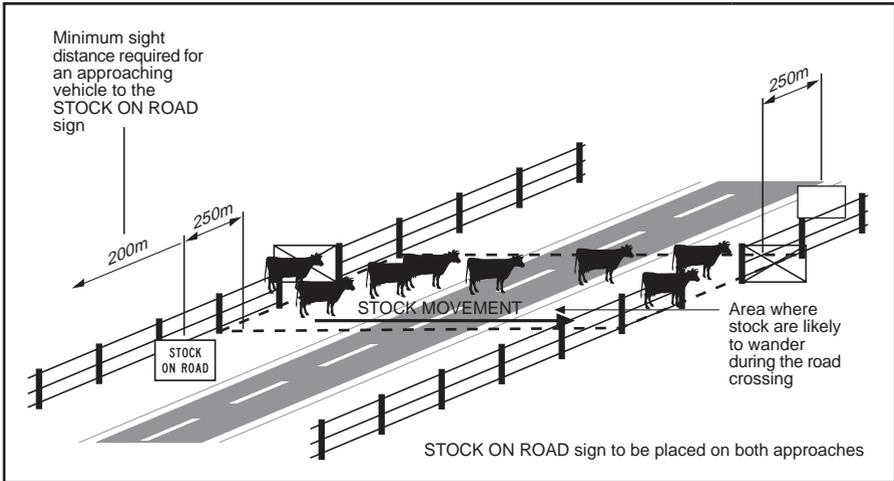


Figure 1 Movement of stock across a road

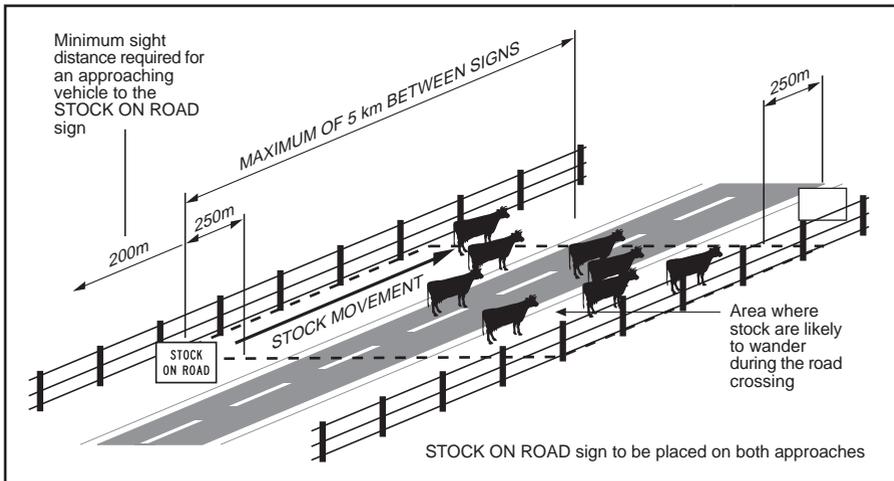


Figure 2 Movement of stock along a road

- 7) Signs should not be mounted on vehicles. However, where stock is being moved along the road and may not always be visible to a driver passing the roadside STOCK ON ROAD sign, a sign may be temporarily placed on a vehicle in addition to the roadside signs. It is important that any sign placed on a vehicle is only visible to motorists prior to them encountering stock on the road.
- 8) Stockowners will need to regularly maintain and clean signs to keep them in good condition.
- 9) No other type of traffic signs, other than an orange flag, shall be used with the "STOCK ON ROAD" sign.

The effectiveness of the STOCK ON ROAD sign as a recognised and respected warning sign risks being degraded if they are not consistently used in accordance with these guidelines.

**Note:** *This booklet only addresses the use of signs and warning devices when stock is being moved on a road. The Stockowner is still responsible for ensuring it is legal to use the road for this purpose. For example, there are some sections of rural road which are Controlled Access Roads and it is illegal to move stock on these roads other than transport by a motor vehicle.*

*The local Transport SA Regional Office can provide information on where Controlled Access Roads exist and where stock movements across these roads can legally occur. Contact numbers for the Regional Offices are listed on page 8.*

## Can Yellow Flashing Lights or Hazard Lights be Used?

Yellow flashing lights are permitted on a vehicle being used by a primary producer moving stock between paddocks across or along roads.

Under the Australian Road Rules vehicle hazard lights are permitted to be used on a stationary vehicle which is in a hazardous location or a slow moving vehicle that is likely to obstruct the path of other vehicles. The use of hazard lights on vehicles used to drive stock is not encouraged and hazard lights should not be used in conjunction with yellow flashing lights.

While the use of yellow flashing lights is not compulsory Transport SA strongly recommends that they be used when:

- stock is being moved along the road and may not always be visible to a driver passing the “STOCK ON ROAD” sign;
- vehicles are used to move stock along the road between permanent Transport SA stock warning signs, or,
- vehicles are left in a hazardous position on the roadway or shoulder while the stock is being moved. The vehicles hazard lights may be used in place of a flashing yellow light if the vehicle is to remain stationary.

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## Can traffic be directed or controlled?

Under the Road Traffic Act, only police and authorised road workers have the authority to direct or control traffic. Therefore persons controlling the movement of stock are advised not to attempt to stop or actively control traffic movements.

Advice may be given to drivers on the behaviour and mannerisms of the stock when confronted by traffic. However, drivers should be left to find their own way around stock on the roadway.

## Are Signs Needed on Unfenced Roads?

Signs warning drivers of the unfenced nature of a road and the potential for wandering stock being on the roadway are installed and maintained by Transport SA. Any queries regarding these signs should be referred to the appropriate local Regional Manager.

Transport SA recommends that temporary STOCK ON ROAD signs should still be used for any controlled stock movements along, or across unfenced roads regardless of the permanent signs which may be present.

## When are Permanent Stock Warning Signs used?

On request Transport SA may install permanent stock warning signs at some stock crossing locations. These permanent signs can only be installed with the approval of the local Regional Manager of Transport SA. Transport SA will generally only give consideration to installing permanent signs where:



*Standard permanent stock warning sign*

- stock is moved across, or along a road on a daily basis, or
- the road is unfenced and the Stockowner can show that a crossing point is regularly used by wandering stock.

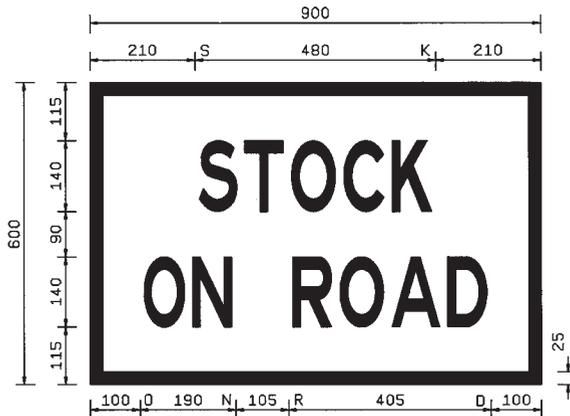
## Where to Seek Assistance

Any questions in regard to this information, or with a particular stock on road concern should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office of Transport SA.

Regional Office	Telephone No.
Adelaide	8226 8222
Crystal Brook	8638 5500
Murray Bridge	8532 8111
Naracoorte	8762 8000
Port Augusta	8648 5211
Port Lincoln	8688 3300

*Transport SA  
Statewide Operational Coordination Group  
Traffic Sign Specifications*

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ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETRES.



Orange Flag  
(approx 450x300)

NOTES:

Letters: 140mm U.C. Series 'C' Medium as per AS1744 'TABLE 3 SERIES C LETTERS AND NUMERAL DIMENSIONS'.

Colour: Black legend on fluorescent orange background as per AS1743 'APPENDIX D FLUORESCENT COLOURS D1 SCOPE'.

Material: 6mm plywood, or 2mm half hard aluminium sheeting, or 1.6mm zinc anneal sheeting, or light duty reinforced PVC (flexible vinyl).

All dimensions are in millimetres.

Suggested roadside arrangement

Sign Type: Temporary Warning Sign  
Location: Portable Stock Control

Drawn: A Spoehr  
Edition: A Rev: 1  
Date: 29 July, 1998

Authorisation:  
Date:

*TES6396*