



# Guidelines for the conduct of organised cycling activities on the Great Ocean Road

**These guidelines have been developed to address the conduct of organised cycling activity on the Great Ocean Road under open road conditions. These guidelines are an extension of the Great Ocean Road Event Closure Guidelines that provide a framework for the consideration of event requests to close the Great Ocean Road.**

These guidelines have been developed in response to an increasing level of interest from individuals, groups and organisations seeking to conduct organised rides on the Great Ocean Road under 'open' conditions.

The guidelines have been developed collaboratively by Department of Transport, Victoria Police, Colac Otway Shire Council, Surf Coast Shire Council and Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

## Challenges of conducting cycling activities on an 'open' Great Ocean Road

The Great Ocean Road presents a unique and challenging environment for road users. As one of Australia's most popular tourism destinations, the road attracts high volumes of traffic – particularly over the summer and holiday periods. There is also an increasing permanent residential population within the townships located along the road, further contributing to traffic volumes.

Some of the risks relevant to the cyclist user group include:

- The road is narrow, winding, has blind corners and has little or no shoulder
- With its high number of tourists, many road users are driving on unfamiliar yet challenging roads and the scenery may also distract drivers and cause them to drive in an irregular manner
- Host community tolerance is low for cycling groups on the open road
- Racing or peloton riding amplifies these risks
- Unpredictable road surface with occasional landslips
- The narrow road impacts on the ability to maintain the new minimal passing laws for cyclists. 1.5m space is required between a vehicle and rider on roads with speed limits above 60km and 1m on roads less than or equal to 60km
- Due to extreme weather conditions, the Great Ocean Road is subject to unpredictable deterioration and minimises cyclists' ability to hug the road's edge

## Ride types and approval process

All organised rides must abide by the road rules and obtain the necessary permits from relevant agencies. The table below provides an overview of requirements based on the type of ride. In addition to these requirements, the following conditions apply to all organised cycling activities conducted on an open Great Ocean Road:

- These guidelines relate to the section of road between the two townships of Anglesea and Apollo Bay
- No activities will be permitted during school holidays or public holidays.
- No activity may be promoted without prior approval from the relevant agencies

Ride type	Description	Permit Process
<b>Organised or structured group ride</b>	A touring ride or an organised group ride on the Great Ocean Road from Point A to Point B. May include support vehicles.  > 5 and < 30 participants.  Examples include charity rides, school groups or organised training rides leading up to an event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organiser must have public liability insurance and notify relevant agencies no less than 60 days prior to the event.</li> <li>• Department of Transport permit</li> <li>• Victoria Police to be notified.</li> <li>• Local governments and the Great Ocean Road Authority to be notified.</li> <li>• Organiser must meet requirements of all relevant approval agencies listed above</li> </ul>
<b>Timed cycling events or recreational rides</b>	Any activity that promotes 'racing', ranks riders by time, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timed cycling activities are NOT permitted on the OPEN Great Ocean Road.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Untimed cycling events or recreational rides</b>	Organised group cycling activities that involve registration and a set course, however do not rank riders through timing or finishing position.  > 30 participants	<p><b>Permits required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Transport</li> <li>• Host council (SCS and/or COS)</li> <li>• Great Ocean Road Authority</li> </ul> <p><b>Other requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event management plan</li> <li>• Risk management plan</li> <li>• Traffic management plan, created and reviewed for each event by an accredited traffic management company</li> <li>• COVIDSafe Plan</li> <li>• Emergency response plan</li> <li>• Waste management plan</li> <li>• Community notification plan</li> <li>• Public Liability Insurance</li> <li>• Victoria Police notification – user pays for police resources if required.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lead-time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisers must apply to all relevant stakeholders a minimum of six months prior to the event.</li> </ul>

## Key Agencies

### Department of Transport (DoT)

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e. [SWRevents@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:SWRevents@roads.vic.gov.au)

#### Will issue a permit for:

- Permit will be issued under Section 99B of the Road Safety Act 1986 and Road Safety (Traffic Management) Regulations 2019.

### Victoria Police

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#### Steve Burgess, Event Planning Unit

e. [geelong-psaroster-planning-oic@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:geelong-psaroster-planning-oic@police.vic.gov.au)

#### Will only issue a Highway Event permit for:

- Races under the Provisions of Regulations 29 RSA (TM) 2019.

### Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (Great Ocean Road Authority)

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#### Caleb Hurrell, Coastal Reserves Manager

e. [caleb.hurrell@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au](mailto:caleb.hurrell@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au)  
w. [www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au](http://www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au)

#### Will issue permit for foreshore use.

### Surf Coast Shire (SCS)

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#### Event Coordinator

e. [events@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:events@surfcoast.vic.gov.au)  
w. [www.surfcoastevents.com.au](http://www.surfcoastevents.com.au)

#### Notification required for all organised and structured rides.

- Permit required for Untimed Cycling Events.

### Colac Otway Shire (COS)

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#### Fiona Maw, Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator

e. [fiona.maw@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:fiona.maw@colacotway.vic.gov.au)  
w. [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)

#### Notification required for all organised and structured rides.

- Permit required for Untimed Cycling Events.
- Guidelines approved by above agencies