

Roadside Rest Areas on Rural Roads

Operational Instruction 20.03

April 2024



Government of South Australia
Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

Build.
Move.
Connect.

Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, its agencies, instrumentalities, employees, and contractors disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect to anything or the consequence of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.

Publication details

Document information

Title	Roadside Rest Areas on Rural Roads Operational Instruction 20.03
Owner	Traffic Engineering Standards
KNet reference	#1586219

Change history

Version	Date changed	Nature of amendment
Ed2	22 Nov 01	Original issue - signing for rest areas
4	11 Jun 08	Format changes only
5	27 Jul 12	Signing changes in line with strategy, deceleration / acceleration lane lengths amended, signing updated
6	24 Mar 15	Strategy information removed
7	28 Oct 20	Design information removed, referred to Austroads; structure of document; format updated
8	10 Apr 24	Pavement marking changes on rest area entry

Approvals record

Approvers	Position	Date	Signature
S Pascale	Manager, Traffic Services	10 April 2024	Digital Approval 35247

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country throughout South Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land and waters. We pay our respects to the diversity of cultures, significance of contributions and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Contents

1	Scope	5
2	Information for road users	5
3	Signing for rest areas	6
3.1	Advance Signs	6
3.2	Major rest areas	6
3.3	Shared use major rest areas	8
3.4	Minor rest areas	8
3.5	Truck only Rest Areas.....	9
4	Use of standard symbols	9
4.1	No Trucks symbol, S23	9
4.2	Point of Interest site parking areas	10
4.3	Other service symbols.....	10
5	Delineation of informal heavy vehicle rest areas	10
6	Signs within rest areas	11
6.1	Tourism and information signs	12
6.2	Advertising signs	12
6.3	Camping in roadside areas	12
6.4	Fire restriction sign.....	13
7	Signing rest areas within towns	13
8	Fatigue management service signs	13

1 Scope

This Operational Instruction provides guidance to department personnel and contractors for the signing and delineation of roadside rest areas. It should be read in conjunction with the Australian Standard AS 1742.2 MUTCD Part 2: *Traffic Control Devices for General Use* and AS 1742.6 MUTCD Part 6: *Service and Tourist Signs for Motorists*.

For pavement marking information, refer to DIT's *Pavement Marking Manual*.

For guidance on selection of type and design, refer to the following Austroads Guides:

- *Guide to Road Design Series*, especially *Part 3 – Geometric Design* and *Part 6B – Roadside Environment*.
- *Guidelines for the Provision of Heavy Vehicles Rest Area Facilities (AP-R591-19)*

Any rest area design should also meet the requirements of DIT's Master Specification and DIT's *Road Design Output - Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Facilities Road Design Standard* (www.dit.sa.gov.au/standards/road_design_outputs).

The selection of appropriate locations for rest areas in terms of road safety and strategic importance is not covered in this document. **However, generally rest areas should be located on both sides of carriageways or should be staggered in direction of approaching traffic to discourage cross median vehicular movements and deter drivers from parking on shoulders and walking across the carriageway to access facilities. On major, undivided highways it is also desirable to provide rest areas on both sides of the road. This is particularly important to eliminate the need for heavy vehicles to turn right across oncoming traffic especially where there is no sight distance or there is restricted access on the exit of a rest area.**

To prohibit this movement, barrier lines and or signs can be used to ban movement into the rest area on the opposite side of the road.

2 Information for road users

Rest area information should enable pre-trip planning, through tools such as rest area maps, fatigue messages, and on-road information, including advance notice signs for rest area locations and fatigue warning signs to enable in transit management of fatigue.

Information on the location and type of rest areas maintained by the Department is available on the LocationSA Map Viewer (www.location.sa.gov.au).

Signing within rest areas should be considered to promote fatigue and other road safety messages.

3 Signing for rest areas

Rest areas in South Australia shall be signed based on AS 1742.6 and this document. Design and preparation of drawings for the signs is available from the Department's Traffic Services section.






Service Symbol					
Designation	S12	S12	S13	S23	TS2
Used to Identify	Major and Minor Rest Areas (with truck Parking)	Rest Areas Truck Parking Only		Rest Areas (without Truck Parking)	Point of Interest Sites

Table 3.1: Typical Service Symbols Identifying Rest Areas

The key service symbols shown in Table 3.1 shall be used to identify the type of rest area. These symbols shall not be used to sign roadside stops which do not meet the requirements for that type of area as discussed in this document, with the exception of the S14 symbol (Parking) in urban areas to sign public parking areas.

3.1 Advance Signs

Consistent reminders on both the dangers of fatigue and the availability of rest opportunities along a given route area is considered important in assisting road users to effectively manage their fatigue.

A key approach aimed at achieving the distribution of information on-route is through the use of advance 'reassurance' signs, incorporating details of the next 5 rest area opportunities.

Advance 'reassurance' signs shall be installed on all National Network routes.

Additionally, reassurance signs shall be installed on the Barrier Highway due to its remote location and long distance.

Consideration should be given to installing reassurance signs on high volume state routes, however many state routes benefit from townships and commercial facilities being provided at regular intervals.

The current approach of providing indicating signs 1 km and 400 m in advance of rest areas shall be maintained.

3.2 Major rest areas

Major rest areas throughout the state may be given a unique name to be used on the advance, position and next signs for the rest area, as shown in Figure 3.1.

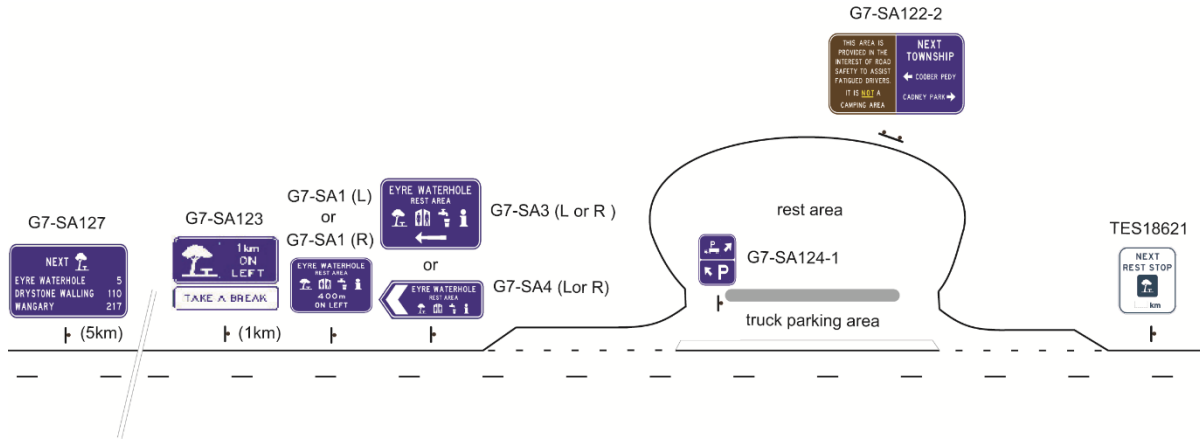


Figure 3.1: Typical layout for major rest areas

Where the rest area is designed to cater for drivers approaching from one direction (i.e left-in, left-out) the signs shall only be placed on the left side approach and departure.

Advance reassurance next rest area (G7-SA127) signs shall be installed for major rest areas. Townships shall not be included on these signs.

The use of the “Next Service” and “Next Rest Stop” signs may differ for some selected routes where another strategy for targeting driver fatigue has been developed (e.g. along the Dukes Highway). Where such signing strategies have been implemented, it is important that consistency be maintained along the whole route. Advice on such alternative signing schemes is available from the Department’s Traffic Services section.



Figure 3.2: Examples of “Next Rest Stop” and “Next Service” signs

Service symbols may be used on advance, position and next signs for major rest areas showing the additional amenities available. The most common service symbols are discussed in Section 4. A maximum of 4 symbols may be used on each of the signs and the symbols shall be the same for the advance, position and next signs for the same rest area. The S12 symbol shall be the first symbol on all signs, but may be replaced by:

- another service symbol where it is necessary to sign for 4 additional road user amenities; or
- the S23 “No Truck” symbol (as an overlay) where unwanted heavy vehicle use is occurring, and 4 service symbols currently exist. (refer Section 4.1).

Where a major rest area has been developed to incorporate a scenic lookout, or other interest feature, an appropriate symbol for this feature may be used on the rest area signs. Symbols for scenic sites and other roadside features are discussed in the Department’s Road Sign Guidelines for visitor and services signposting.

Internal signs may be installed to direct vehicular or pedestrian traffic to parking areas or walking tracks. Advice shall be sought from the Department’s Traffic Services section in developing and designing internal signs.

3.3 Shared use major rest areas

Additional internal signs may also be used to assist in separating the parking areas for heavy vehicles and general passenger vehicles, examples are shown in Figure 3.3.

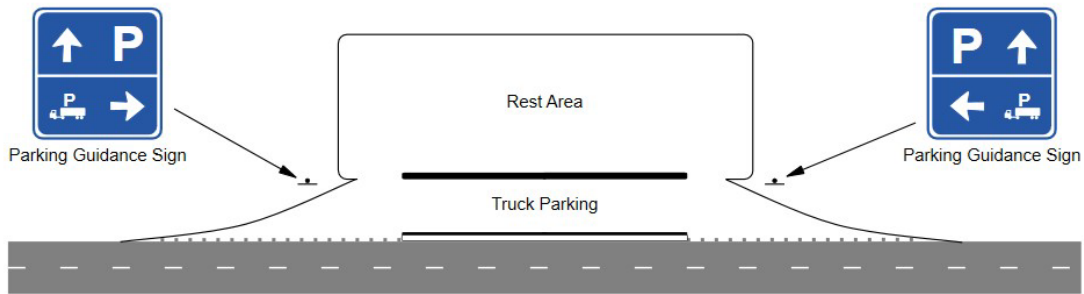


Figure 3.3: Internal Signs for Shared Use Rest Areas

3.4 Minor rest areas

Minor rest areas (with truck parking) shall only be signed from the left-in left-out approach, as shown in Figure 3.4. Most minor rest areas (with truck parking) will be suitable for general road users to use if they wish.

In most situations ‘A’ sized sign should be appropriate; the ‘B’ sized signs may be used on dual carriageways.

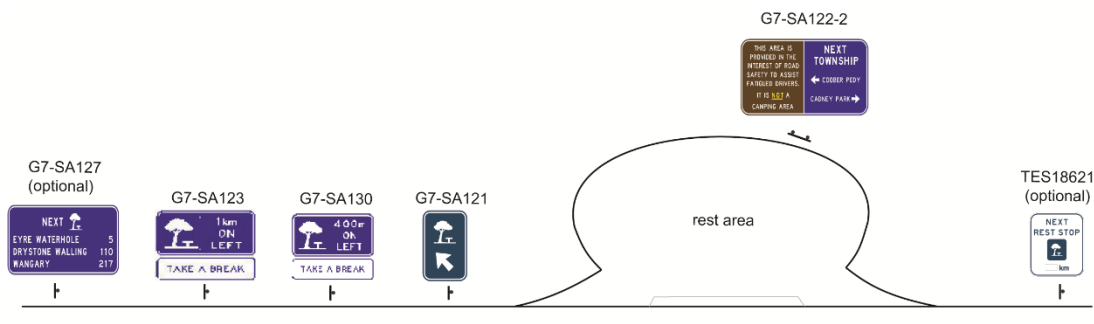


Figure 3.4: Typical signing for Minor Rest Areas

In addition, advance reassurance “Next Rest Area” signs can be installed, but consideration should be given to limit the number of these signs along a particular length of road where there are a high number of rest areas.

Other service symbols shall not to be used to complement the minor rest area (with truck parking) signs. “Next” minor rest area or “Next Service” signs can be provided as an option.

Minor rest area should only be signed from the left-in, left-out approach.

If trucks must be excluded from a minor rest area for safety reasons the S12 symbol shall be accompanied by the S23, “No Trucks” symbol.

3.5 Truck only Rest Areas

Truck Parking shall only be signed from the left-in left-out approach, as shown in Figure 3.5. Next Truck Parking or Next Service allowing trucks may be provided.

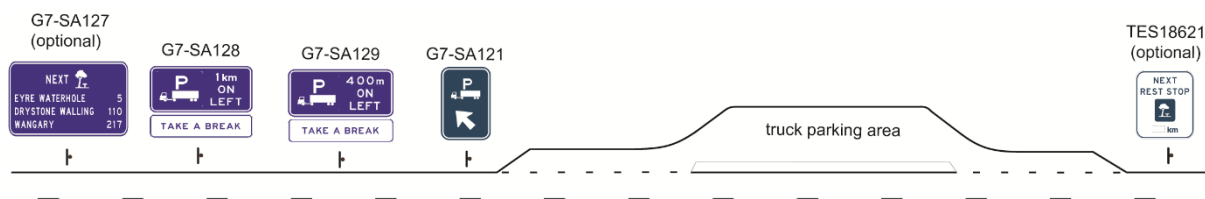


Figure 3.5: Signing for Truck Parking Rest Areas

4 Use of standard symbols

Requirements for the use of standard symbols for rest areas is provided in AS 1742.6 and the following sections.

4.1 No Trucks symbol, S23

This symbol shall not be used as a standard symbol at rest areas.

Where heavy vehicle’s use of a Rest Area or Point of Interest Site poses either a safety concern or may potentially discourage other road users from using the Rest Area and it is not practical to restrict heavy vehicle use by re-design of the entrance, then the S23 “no-trucks” service symbol may be placed on the advance, position signs.



S23

4.2 Point of Interest site parking areas

Rest Areas with Point of Interest sites can be signed with the TS2 symbol as shown in the Department's Road Sign Guidelines. The Department has also adopted special purpose symbols for Point of Interest Sites, such as walking trails, lookouts and historical monuments, which are also detailed in the Road Sign Guidelines.

4.3 Other service symbols

Major Rest Area signs may contain symbols showing any extra amenities provided for road users. The more common symbols, which may be used, are described in Table 4.1.






Service Symbol	Designation	Description
	Toilets (S16)	This symbol shall be used regardless of whether separate male/female toilets or a shared use facility is provided for all.
	Tourist Information (S4)	To be used where tourist information is available within the Rest Area (i.e. billboards, interpretive displays). The information provided must be relevant to the local area and worthy of breaking a trip to investigate and must be more substantial than a "you are here" message.
	Water (Drinkable) (S20)	This symbol shall only be used if the water supply in the Rest Area is drinkable (potable). Where water is provided but is considered unsuitable for general consumption then the service sign depicting water should not be provided.
	Emergency Telephone (S25)	Used where an emergency telephone is provided within the Rest Area. In the unlikely event that a public telephone has been installed within a Rest Area, the S2 telephone symbol should be used.
	BBQ (Gas or Electric) (S113-G, S113-E)	Used where gas or electric barbecues are provided within a Rest Area – usually in conjunction with another organisation.

Table 4.1: Other Service Symbols for use at Rest Areas

5 Delineation of informal heavy vehicle rest areas

To notify the truck drivers of an informal heavy vehicle rest area (formerly referred to as truck ancillary rest area), the following markings shall be used:

- Three green delineators (RPMs) shall be mounted on a guidepost at a minimum of 500 m from the stopping area,
- Two green delineators mounted on guidepost at 250 m, and
- One green delineator mounted on the guidepost immediately before the stopping area.

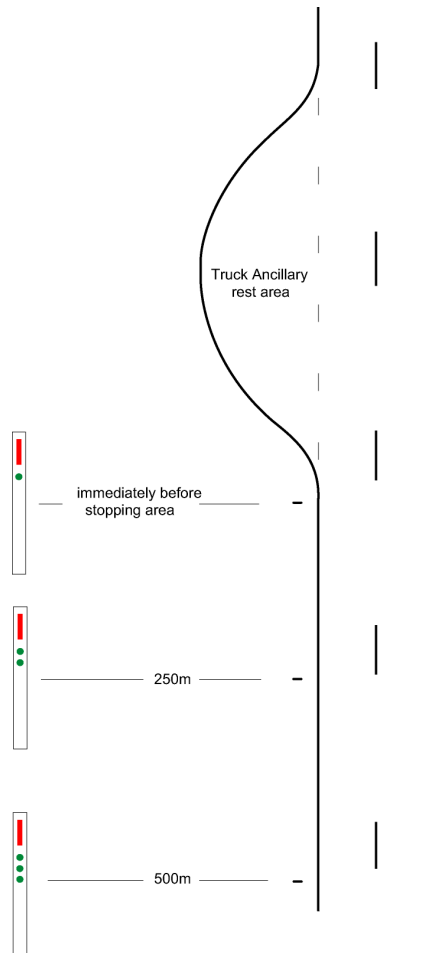


Figure 5.1: Marking of an Informal Heavy Vehicle (Truck Ancillary) Rest Area

6 Signs within rest areas

An opportunity exists to present relevant road safety and route specific information to road users within a rest area.

It is considered that whilst road users are stopped in a rest area, they are likely to look at information/signage provided. Additionally the presence of visually stimulating signage is likely to encourage road users to get out of their vehicles, providing valuable exercise and fresh air.

Major and minor rest areas will have improved internal signs, with a specific focus on:

- Highlighting road safety messages – fatigue/speed;
- Advising if the rest areas is a high use site by heavy vehicles; and
- Indicating future route rest opportunities and nearby points of interest.

Internal directional signs may be required in large rest areas, to assist drivers to know where suitable parking spaces are located.

Other signs may be installed, such as:

- Parking signs, where marked parking spaces or separated parking areas are provided (ie, in shared use rest areas);
- Camping discouraged signs (see Section 6.3); or
- Tourist and Information Signs (see Section 6.1).

6.1 Tourism and information signs

Appropriate tourist or information signs within rest areas include signs giving information on historic, geographic or botanical interest relevant to the immediate area. Local organisations such as Lions, Apex etc, should be discouraged from erecting information boards in rest areas. Such information is preferred in the Council maintained Information Bays near towns or commercial centres.

The Department may remove unauthorised information boards installed in rest areas.

6.2 Advertising signs

Advertising signs shall not be permitted in rest areas maintained by the Department.

6.3 Camping in roadside areas

It is acknowledged that there is a growing trend for tourist travellers (with a large percentage of new caravans and all motor homes being self-contained) to 'free' camp in rest areas. Whilst overnight stays in rest areas are a genuinely acceptable method for fatigue management, stays longer than 24 hours are not encouraged.

As there is no State legislation prohibiting camping in rest areas and any policing of such legislation would be difficult, long term camping can only be discouraged.

If long term camping regularly occurs, the erection of signs similar to those used in the Northern Territory, Figure 6.1 is recommended. These signs should be placed in a prominent position within the rest area.

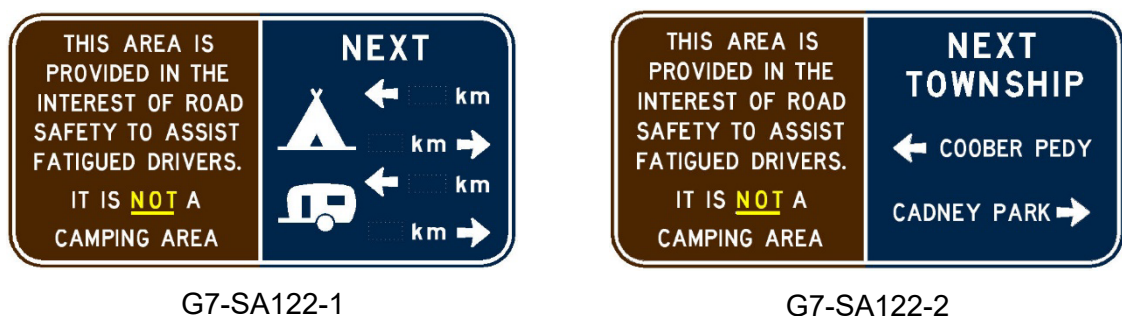


Figure 6.1: Example Signs for Deterring Camping

Any camping site and/or caravan park indicated on this sign must be clearly visible from the road, or appropriately signed, to enable road users to find the recommended camping area after being directed away from the rest area.

6.4 Fire restriction sign

Fire restriction signing is required at rest areas identified as high-risk of bush fire by local Fire Services or the Department. The Fire Restriction sign is to be used in the rest areas where camping allowed. The period of fire restrictions and penalty shall be indicated on the sign.

7 Signing rest areas within towns

Public rest areas and toilet facilities within towns which are readily accessed from the Department maintained through routes shall be signed by the Department. Table 7.1 shows the typical service symbols, which may be used along with the basic requirements for the use of the symbols.

The signs should typically be placed on a G7-3 series of position signs. The sign may be modified to include the name of the town or rest area (see the Department's Traffic Services section). Advance warning signs should not generally be required.

Service Symbol	Designation	Description
	Rest Area (S12)	Installed where a rest area provided the basic amenities of a litter bin, picnic tables and chairs, and a shelter.
	Public Toilets (S16)	Installed where public toilets are available to the travelling public. Toilets should be open all hours (or at least reasonable travelling hours)
	Water (S20)	Installed where potable mains water is provided free for use – typically within rest areas.
	BBQ (Gas or Electric) (S113-G, S113-E)	Installed where public use gas or electric barbecues are available.
	Bed (S6)	Installed where accommodation is available to the travelling public. A caravan symbol (s9) can also be used.

8 Fatigue management service signs

Special service signs may be used to better manage driver fatigue. Such signs shall only be installed on certain routes in conjunction with a government road safety strategy. The signs shall be authorised by the Department's Traffic Services section. This sign shall be installed 5 km (preferable) or 10 km prior to the town.

