



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE TRANSPORT OF AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES AS LOADS

May 2008

This booklet is a legal document. You must comply with the conditions contained in it when transporting oversize agricultural vehicles as loads. For clarification and advice, contact the Vehicle Permits Team on 1300 882 249.

You must carry this document, or a legible copy, when transporting an oversize agricultural implement or machine as a load. You must also produce it when requested by a Transport Safety Compliance Officer or a Police Officer.



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure

What the terms mean

Act is the Road Traffic Act 1961, and includes Regulations and Rules made under the Act.

Agricultural combination is a combination of two or more vehicles that includes at least one agricultural vehicle. For example: a tractor towing a trailer or an agricultural machine towing an agricultural implement and a small vehicle.

Agricultural implement is a vehicle built to perform agricultural tasks without its own motive power.

Agricultural machine is a machine built to perform agricultural tasks with its own motive power.

Agricultural vehicle is an agricultural implement, an agricultural machine or a tractor.

Code means this Code of Practice for the Transport of Agricultural Vehicles as Loads, July 2002.

Country Zone means all South Australia except the Adelaide Zone (Map 1) and the Adelaide Hills Zone (Map 2).

Tractor means a motor vehicle designed to tow and provide power for agricultural implements or other equipment, and which is usually fitted with deeply-treaded tyres.

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Explanatory Notes

Information contained in a box does not form part
of the conditions of this Code of Practice but is provided
for explanation only.



Introduction

1 What is a Code of Practice?

- 1.1 This Code of Practice is a legal document issued by Department for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure (DTEI) under a Notice in the South Australian Government Gazette, titled 'Transport of Agricultural Vehicles Carried as a Load'. It sets out the conditions under which you can transport oversize agricultural implements and agricultural machines as loads that are not normally allowed general access to roads.
- 1.2 This Code replaces the requirements of the Road Traffic (Oversize or Overmass Vehicle Exemptions) Regulations 1999 when you are transporting oversize agricultural machines and implements.
- 1.3 This Code enables you to know what you can do, how you can do it, and what the law requires of you.
- 1.4 You must also comply with any registration conditions specified for your vehicle.
- 1.5 You commit an offence if you do not comply with any of the conditions in this Code when transporting an oversize agricultural vehicle as a load on the road.
- 1.6 You must carry this document, or a legible copy, when transporting an oversize agricultural machine or implement. You must also produce it when requested by a Transport Safety Compliance Officer (TSCO) or a Police Officer.

2 What 'agricultural vehicles' can be carried under this Code?

- 2.1 For the purposes of this Code, an 'agricultural vehicle' is an agricultural machine or implement that:
 - 2.1.1 cannot be divided without great difficulty, expense or risk of damage; and,
 - 2.1.2 cannot be carried on any vehicle or combination of vehicles without exceeding any of the general access dimension limits for length, width and height – refer to Section 4.1.
- 2.2 Due to the nature and use of agricultural machines and implements, the following may also be transported under this Code:
 - 2.2.1 combinations of agricultural vehicles, machines or implements connected and operated by hydraulic hoses, drive shafts, or other couplings;
 - 2.2.2 a header with its comb detached can be transported together on the same vehicle.

Explanatory Note

Examples of oversize agricultural machines and implements covered by this Code include:

- a harvester;
- a tractor and air seeder combination;
- a conveyor or auger.

3 What vehicles can you use to carry these loads?

- 3.1 You can operate under this Code when carrying loads using:
 - 3.1.1 an articulated vehicle (prime mover and semi-trailer);
 - 3.1.2 a rigid vehicle; or
 - 3.1.3 a rigid vehicle and one trailer.

4 When do you use this Code?

- 4.1 You use this Code when your vehicle and load exceeds any of the following general access vehicle dimensions:
 - 4.1.1 2.5 metres wide;
 - 4.1.2 4.3 metres high; or
 - 4.1.3 19 metres long for an articulated vehicle.

Explanatory Note

There is no exemption from the overall length requirement of 12.5 metres for a rigid vehicle.

5 What vehicles can not carry these loads?

- 5.1 You can not use the following vehicles for transporting agricultural machines or implements:
 - 5.1.1 vehicles, either being driven or towed, that were not built to carry loads;
 - 5.1.2 vehicles that permanently exceed 2.5 metres wide, and/or 4.3 metres high, and/or 12.5 metres long for a rigid vehicle and 19 metres long for an articulated vehicle;
 - 5.1.3 vehicles of variable size that cannot be restored to 2.5 metres or less in width, 4.3 metres or less in height, and 19 metres or less in length for an articulated vehicle

Explanatory Note

If your proposed haulage operation does not comply with this Code of Practice, you must apply for a separate, individually-issued exemption (known as a permit).

Applications for permits are assessed by DTEI, which will issue the appropriate permit if your proposed operation complies with the guidelines for the transport of oversize agricultural machines and implements.



General Conditions

6 Rules of the Road

- 6.1 When operating under this Code, you must comply with all other provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1961 and Regulations and the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 and Regulations.
- 6.2 If there is not a separate lane available for overtaking you must, at regular intervals when it is practicable to do so, move off the road to allow other vehicles to overtake.

7 Driver Vision

- 7.1 Where the overall width of your vehicle, including the load, does not exceed 3.5 metres, you must be able to see to the sides and rear of the vehicle with the use of rear vision mirrors.
- 7.2 Where the overall width of your vehicle, including the load, exceeds 3.5 metres, you must:
 - 7.2.1 be able to see to the sides and rear of the vehicle with the use of rear vision mirrors; or
 - 7.2.2 if rear vision mirrors do not provide a clear view, a pilot vehicle must travel immediately behind your vehicle. The driver of the pilot vehicle must be in radio communication with you at all times to advise of traffic approaching from the rear.
- 7.3 The driver of the pilot vehicle must operate in accordance with, and carry a current copy of, the booklet titled 'Escorting Guidelines for Oversize and Overmass Vehicles and Loads', published by DTEI

8 Road Damage

- 8.1 You must ensure that there is sufficient side and overhead clearance available on routes you intend to use.

Explanatory Note

Some parts of the road system, such as bridges, overhead services and wires, roadside furniture (signs, traffic lights etc) and vegetation, may not provide sufficient clearance for a vehicle and load travelling under this Code.

Section 106 of the Road Traffic Act, *Damage to roads and works*, requires you to notify the Police, DTEI or Office of Public Transport if you cause damage to roads, bridges and culverts, or interfere with roadside furniture.

If you have caused anything to fall on to the road that may obstruct, damage or cause injury to people or vehicles, Australian Road Rule 293 requires you to remove it or take action to have it removed.

Examples include tree branches or damaged traffic signs.



Dimensions

For operations under this Code, the maximum dimensions are:

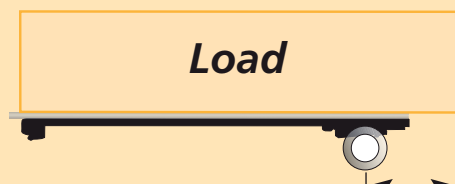
9 Length

- 9.1 For vehicles or combinations of vehicles, including the load:
 - 9.1.1 articulated vehicle – **23 metres**
 - 9.1.2 rigid vehicle – **12.5 metres**
 - 9.1.3 rigid vehicle and trailer combination – **19 metres**
- 9.2 The rear overhang of a semi-trailer, including the load, must not exceed the lesser of:
 - 9.2.1 5.5 metres; or
 - 9.2.2 25% of the overall length of the entire vehicle, including the load.
- 9.3 When operating under this Code, semi-trailers are exempt from meeting the following dimension limits:
 - 9.3.1 9.5 metres – kingpin to centre of axle group;
 - 9.3.2 12.3 metres – kingpin to rear of semi-trailer.

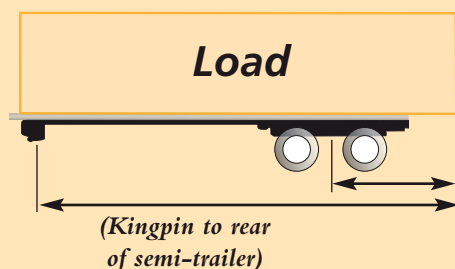
Explanatory Note

Rear overhang means the length from the centre of a single axle or the axle group to the rearmost part of the vehicle or load.

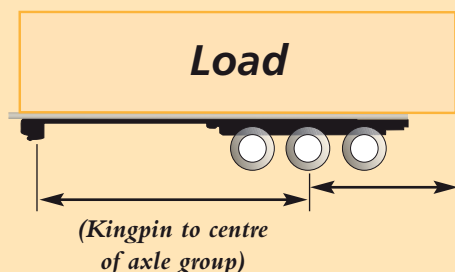
Single Axle



Tandem Axle



Triaxle



10 Width

- 10.1 For the vehicle, including the load and any cross members or framework to support the load – **4.5 metres**
- 10.2 The following other restrictions apply:
 - 10.2.1 the load must be carried to minimise the amount by which it exceeds 2.5 metres; and
 - 10.2.2 the overall width of all axles or axle groups of the load-carrying part of the vehicle, measured between the outer edges of the tyres, must not be less than 2.1 metres; and
 - 10.2.3 any cross member, supporting frame or outrigger fitted to support the load must not protrude beyond the load by more than 50mm.

Explanatory Note

The width of the vehicle is measured without taking into account any anti-skid device mounted on the wheels, central tyre inflation systems, lights, mirrors, reflectors, signalling devices and tyre pressure gauges.

11 Height

- 11.1 For a vehicle, including the load – **4.9 metres**
- 11.2 If the overall height of any part of your vehicle and load exceeds 4.3 metres, before starting the journey, you must comply with Section 20 – refer to Page 9 and Map 3, Optus Clearance Zone, Page 12.
- 11.3 Height is also restricted by low bridges on certain routes – refer to Section 18.5, Page 8.

12 Loading Requirements

- 12.1 The load must be equi-spaced across the tray of the vehicle.
- 12.2 The side projection of a load must not exceed 1.0 metre on either side of the tray of the vehicle.
- 12.3 Where the load consists of more than one item, these must not be loaded:
 - 12.3.1 side by side to more than 2.5 metres wide; and/or
 - 12.3.2 one above the other to more than an overall vehicle height of 4.3 metres; and/or
 - 12.3.3 one behind the other to more than an overall vehicle length of 12.5 metres for a rigid vehicle or 19 metres for an articulated vehicle.



Warning Other Road Users

13 Pilot Vehicles

- 13.1 In the Adelaide Zone (Map 1), if your vehicle and load is wider than 3.5 metres and:
- 13.1.1 up to 21 metres long, you must be accompanied by one pilot vehicle;
 - 13.1.2 longer than 21 metres, you must be accompanied by two pilot vehicles.
- 13.2 In the Country Zone (all of South Australia except the areas shown in Maps 1 and 2), if your vehicle and load is wider than 4 metres, you must be accompanied by one pilot vehicle.
- 13.3 Drivers of pilot vehicles must operate in accordance with, and carry a copy of, the booklet titled 'Escorting Guidelines for Oversize and Overmass Vehicles and Loads', published by DTEI.

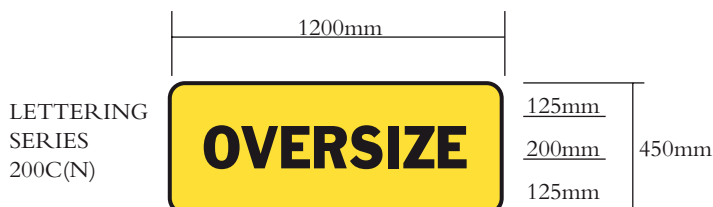
14 Warning Signs

- 14.1 You must display warning signs at the front and rear of your vehicle or vehicle combination and keep them clean so that other road users can read them.
- 14.2 Specifications for warning signs

14.2.1 Face of a warning sign

The sign must:

- (a) have a yellow surface complying with Class 1 or 2 of Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS1906.1, 'Retro-reflective Materials and Devices for Road Traffic Control Purposes' Part 1: Retro-reflective Materials.
- (b) have a black border at least 20mm wide. The outermost edge of the border must be set at least 10mm in from the edge of the sign, unless the sign has been made with a box edge.
- (c) show the word "OVERSIZE" in black capital letters at least 200mm high conforming with Australian Standard AS1744, 'Forms of Letters and Numerals for Road Signs', in typeface Series 200C(N).
- (d) have the manufacturer's name or trademark permanently marked in letters at least 3mm but not more than 10mm high.
- (e) comply with the following dimensions and specifications:



14.2.2 Material for a warning sign

The warning sign must be made of either:

- (a) stiff, flat, weatherproof material, such as Zinalume at least 0.8mm thick or aluminium at least 1.6mm thick; or
- (b) flexible material provided it is:
 - held taut; and
 - positioned and secured in a manner that it is clearly seen; and
 - maintained in a condition that is easily read.

14.2.3 A flexible sign must comply with all other requirements relating to warning signs as if it were a stiff sign.

14.3 Mounting of warning signs

14.3.1 Warning signs must be mounted in an upright position at the front and rear of the vehicle or combination, or, if it is carrying a rear-projecting load, at the rear of the load.

14.3.2 The lower edge of the warning sign must be:

- (a) above the bottom of the bumper bar if fitted; or
- (b) if there is no bumper bar fitted, at least 500mm from ground level.

14.3.3 Warning signs can be split into two provided:

- (a) the left-hand displays the word OVER and the right-hand displays the word SIZE; and
- (b) there is no border between the adjacent edges of the two parts; and
- (c) they are at the same height.



Warning Other Road Users

15 Warning Lights

- 15.1 If your vehicle and load is wider than 3 metres, you must display a warning light or lights so that at least one is visible from a distance of 500 metres in any direction.
- 15.2 Your warning lights must:
 - 15.2.1 emit a rotating, flashing, yellow-coloured light; and
 - 15.2.2 flash at a rate between 120 and 200 times per minute; and
 - 15.2.3 have power of at least 55 watts; and
 - 15.2.4 not be a strobe light.
- 15.3 Your warning lights must also:
 - 15.3.1 be permanently connected to the vehicle's electrical system or use standard automotive connectors to allow easy disconnection and removal when not required; and
 - 15.3.2 have an on/off switch within easy reach of the driver.

16 Flags

- 16.1 Your vehicle or vehicle combination must display brightly coloured red, yellow, or red and yellow flags each at least 450mm wide and 450mm high.
- 16.2 You must ensure that these are attached to each side and at the front and rear of any projecting load or, if no load, to the rear of the vehicle or combination itself.
- 16.3 The flags must be clearly visible at a distance of 100 metres to a person of normal vision.



Travel Restrictions

17 Times of Travel

- 17.1 You must not travel in the Adelaide Zone (Map 1) between the hours of 7 am to 9 am and 4 pm to 6 pm, Monday to Friday inclusive.
- 17.2 You must not travel during periods of low visibility. Low visibility means any time when, people or vehicles on a road are not clearly visible at 250 metres by a person of normal vision.

Explanatory Note

Low visibility can be caused by unfavourable weather conditions, such as rain, fog or dust.

- 17.3 You may travel at night if your vehicle and load:
 - 17.3.1 does not exceed 2.5 metres wide; and
 - 17.3.2 does not exceed 4.6 metres high; and
 - 17.3.3 does not exceed 19 metres long for an articulated vehicle.
- 17.4 If your vehicle and load exceeds the above dimensions, you are only permitted to travel between sunrise and sunset (as published in the South Australian Government Gazette).



Travel Restrictions

18 Restricted Routes

18.1 You must not travel on the following roads and structures:

18.1.1 the section of Park Terrace, Salisbury, between the intersections of Commercial Road/Park Terrace and Salisbury Highway/Waterloo Corner Road/Park Terrace.

18.1.2 St Vincent Street and Nelson Street, including Birkenhead Bridge, Port Adelaide;

18.1.3 River Murray ferries;

18.1.4 through the Port Germein Gorge on the road between Port Germein and Murraytown.

18.2 If your vehicle and load exceeds 3.05 metres wide, you must not travel:

18.2.1 through Horrocks Pass on the road between Stirling North and Wilmington;

18.2.2 through Pichi Richi Pass on the road between Stirling North and Quorn;

18.2.3 on the Paringa Bridge on Route 20 (Sturt Highway) over the River Murray at Paringa.

18.3 If your vehicle and load exceeds 4 metres wide, you must not travel on:

18.3.1 Adelaide Crafers Highway from the Cross Road and Portrush Road intersection to the Crafers Overpass;

18.3.2 Port Augusta Bridge.

18.4 If your vehicle and load exceeds 4.8 metres high and 3.05 metres wide, you must not travel on the Princes Highway bridge over the River Murray, at Murray Bridge.

18.5 You must not travel under the following bridges if the overall height of your vehicle and load exceeds the clearance height specified for the corresponding bridge below:

Structure	Clearance Height (metres)
(a) Railway bridge over Rosetta Street, West Croydon	3.0
(b) Railway bridge over Chief Street, Brompton	3.2
(c) Railway bridge over Mount Barker Road, Aldgate	4.4
(d) Pedestrian bridge over Main North Road and Malinya Drive when travelling along Malinya Drive, Salisbury Park	4.5
(e) Pedestrian bridge over South Terrace, Adelaide	4.5
(f) Road bridge over Bald Hills Road, Mount Barker	4.5
(g) Road bridge over St Andrews Terrace, Willunga	4.5
(h) Road bridge over Mount Barker Road, Devil's Elbow	4.6
(i) Railway bridge (Millswood Subway) over Goodwood Road, Millswood	4.6
(j) Road bridge (Stirling Interchange) over Mount Barker Road, Stirling	4.6
(k) Road bridge (Jervois Bridge) over Causeway Road and Refinery Road, Port Adelaide	4.6
(l) Murray Bridge over Long Flat Road on flood plain, Murray Bridge	4.8
(m) Arches over the Barossa Valley Way (main street), Tanunda	4.8
(n) Road bridges over Pine Ave (Echunga Road), Hahndorf	4.8
(o) Road bridge over Fowler Road, Bridgewater	4.8
(p) Railway bridge over Daws Road, Park Holme	4.8
(q) Railway bridge (Saltia Bridge) over Hawker - Stirling North Road, Saltia.	4.8



Travel Restrictions

18.6 If your vehicle and load exceeds 2.5 metres wide, you must not travel on the Hindmarsh Island Bridge without Police closing the bridge to traffic.

18.7 If your vehicle and load exceeds 4.0 metres wide, you must not travel on the following structures without Police closing the bridge to traffic:

18.7.1 Swanport Bridge, Murray Bridge

18.7.2 Berri Bridge, Berri

18.7.3 Blanchetown Bridge, Blanchetown

18.7.4 Kingston Bridge, Kingston on Murray

19 Restricted Travel in the Adelaide Hills

19.1 If your vehicle and load exceeds 3.05 metres wide and/or 19 metres long, you must not travel in the Adelaide Hills Zone (Map 2).

20 Height Restrictions

20.1 If the overall height of your vehicle or vehicle combination and load exceeds 4.3 metres, before starting the journey, you must:

20.1.1 ask ETSA Utilities about height clearances under power lines along your route;

20.1.2 ask Telstra about height clearances under telecommunications lines along your route;

20.1.3 obtain a high load clearance from Optus for travel within the Optus Clearance Zone (Map 3). Details of your proposed route, times of travel, load and height must be provided to obtain a clearance. If your journey has to be made at short notice, a clearance number can be obtained by phone. You must carry the clearance or clearance number during your trip and produce it when requested by a TSCO or Police Officer.

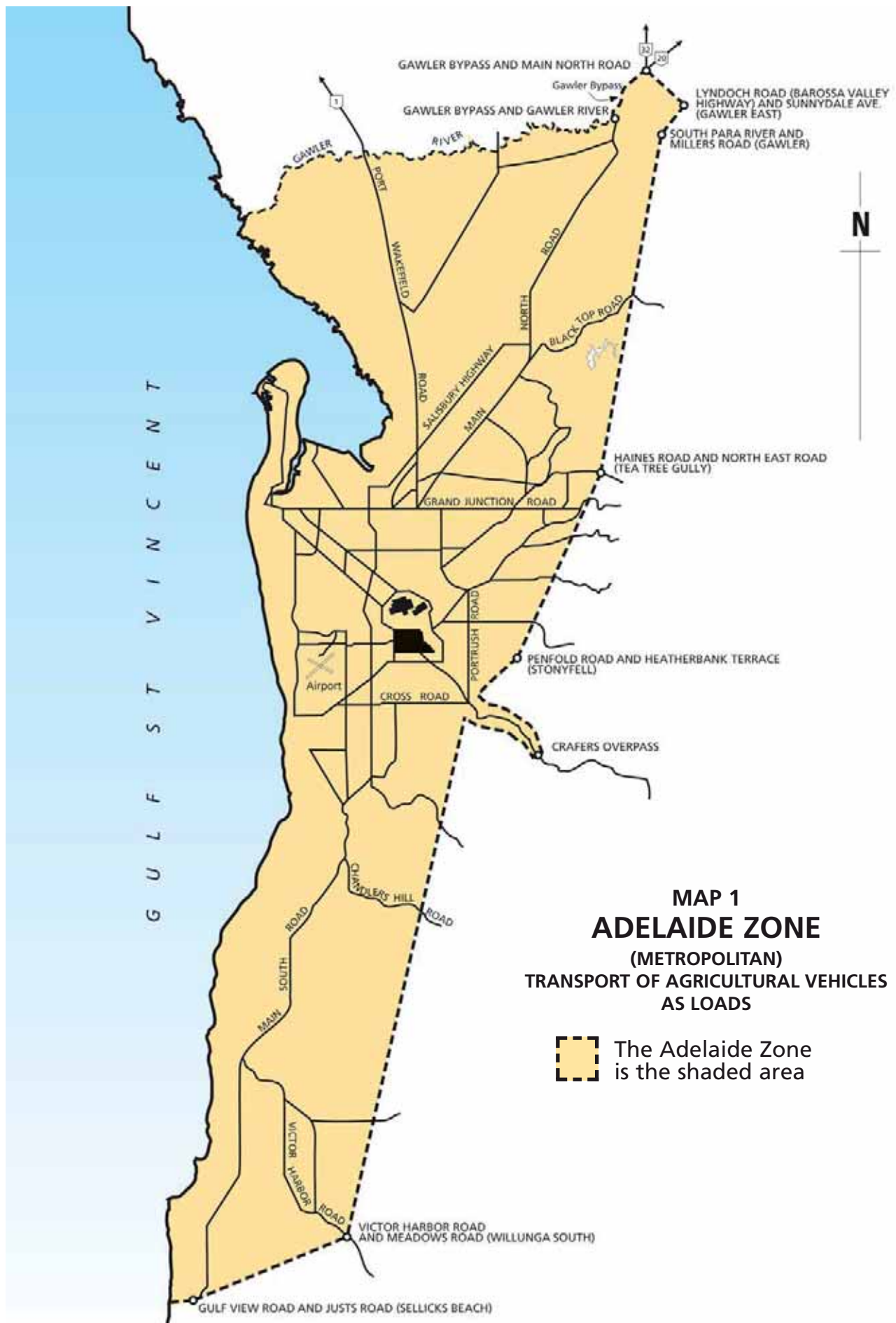
Explanatory Note

You should also verify with ETSA Utilities and Telstra that the required clearance is available when travelling off the road network and on private property, such as a farm track or paddock.

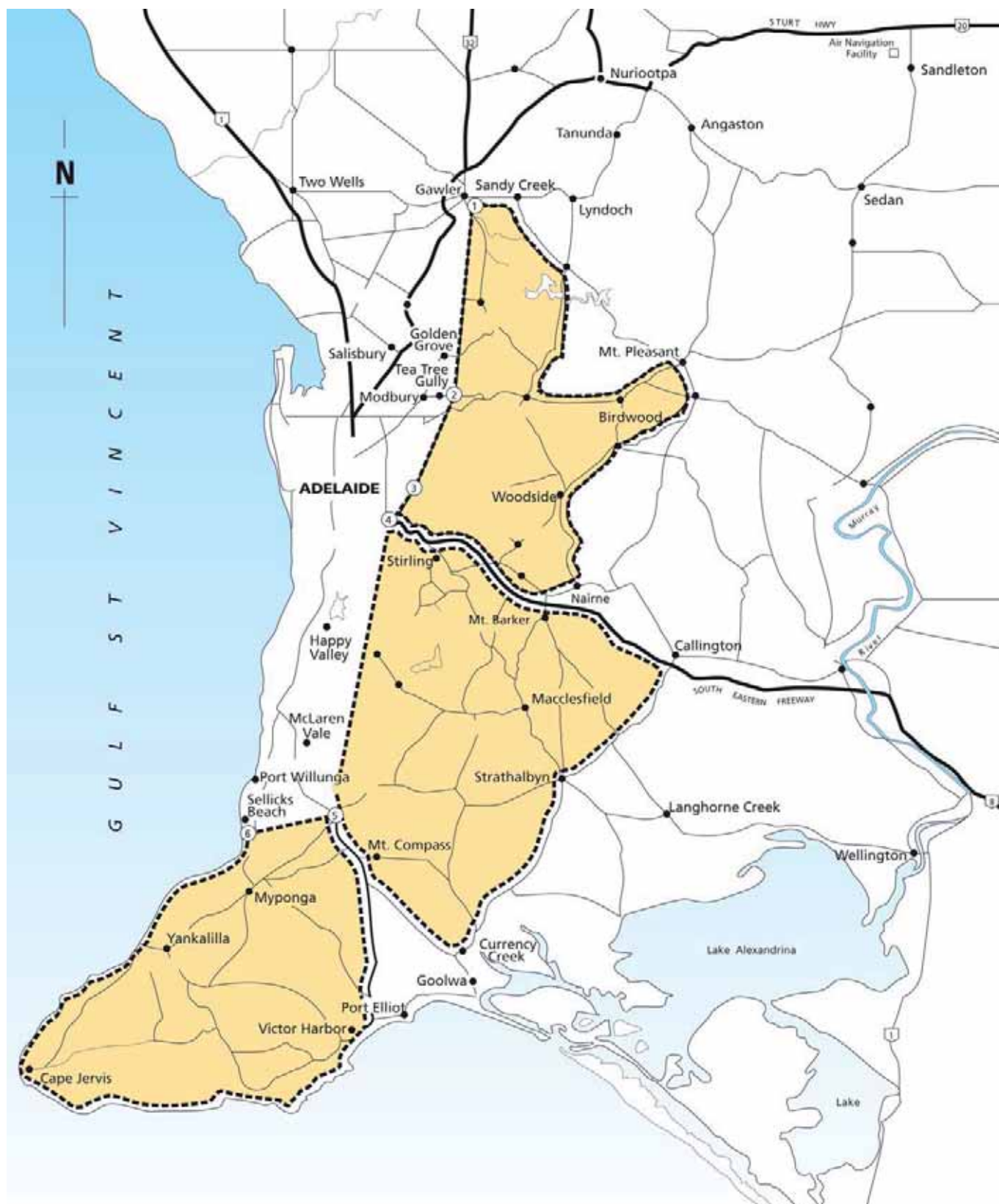
Contact details for ETSA, Telstra and Optus can be obtained from the Vehicle Permits Team at Transport Services by calling 1300 882 249.



Travel Restrictions



Travel Restrictions



MAP 2
ADELAIDE HILLS ZONE
 TRANSPORT OF AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES
 AS LOADS



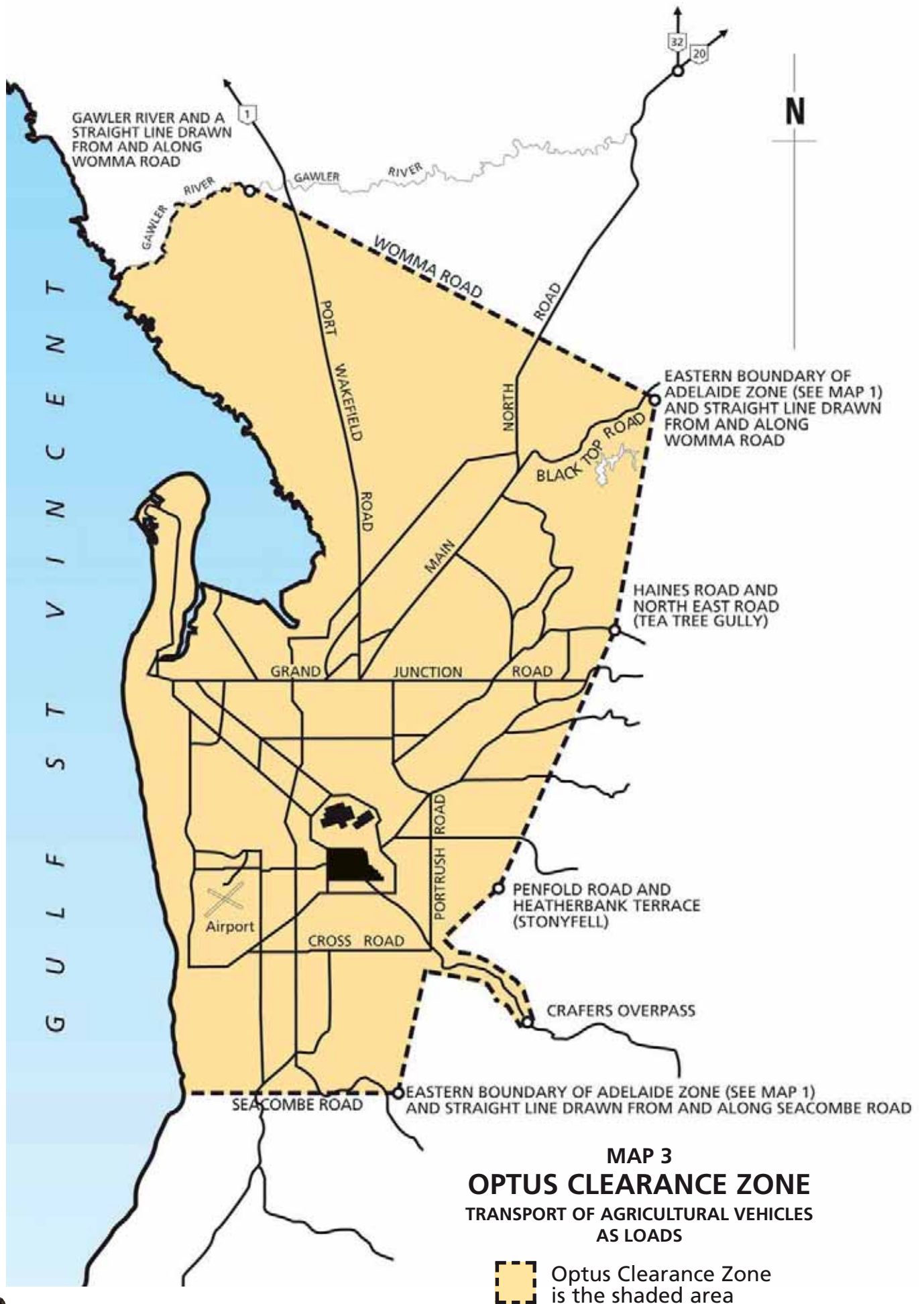
The Adelaide Hills Zone
 is the shaded areas

THE SECTION OF SOLID BROKEN LINE CONNECTED BY NUMBERED CIRCLES
 COINCIDES WITH THE BOUNDARY OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA

- ① Lyndoch Road (Barossa Valley Highway and Sunnydale Avenue, (Gawler East)
- ② Haines Road and North East Road (Tea Tree Gully)
- ③ Penfold Road and Heatherbank Terrace (Stonyfell)
- ④ Cross, Portrush, and Adelaide Crafers Highway (Glen Osmond)
- ⑤ Victor Harbor Road and Meadows Road (Willunga South)
- ⑥ Gulf View Road and Justs Road (Sellicks Beach)



Travel Restrictions



Notes



For further information relating to this Code of Practice and for applications for Permits, contact:

Vehicle Permits Team
Department for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure

Located at: **Kateena Street**
REGENCY PARK
SA 5010

Postal Address: **PO Box 1**
Walkerville SA 5081

Telephone: **1300 882 249**

Facsimile: **(08) 8348 9551**

This document will be updated as the need arises.