

# Understanding the Law:

## Bicycles on Footpaths in Public Spaces



### **Q: Do the NSW road rules apply to riding a bicycle?**

**A:** Yes, bicycle riders in NSW must obey the road rules. A bicycle is defined as a vehicle in the *NSW Road Rules 2014*. This definition means the road rules that apply to cars and other motor vehicles also apply when riding a bike.

For example, you must stop at stop signs and red traffic lights and indicate when you are changing lanes or directions (using hand signals, as bicycles lack the indicator lights of other vehicles).

There are also special road rules that only apply to bicycle riders, these can be found at <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/bicycle-riders/laws.html>



### **Q: When can I ride on a footpath?**

**A:** Generally, bicycle riders must not ride on a footpath. However, children under 16 years of age are allowed to ride on a footpath so long as the footpath area is not a 'NO BICYCLE ZONE'.

Allowing children under the age of 16 on the footpath is a community road safety response aimed to help keep them safe until they have the skills, decision making and knowledge of the rules to ride safely on the road.

The *NSW Road Rules 2014* provide the following additional rules for bicycle riders aged 16 years and over accessing footpath areas:

#### **Bicycle riders aged 16 years and over must not ride on a footpath unless they are:**

- An adult supervising a child under the age of 16.
- Accompanying a child under the age of 16 where all children are under the supervision of an adult.
- A postal worker riding a bicycle in the course of their work duties.
- A rider carrying a child under 10 as a passenger.
- A rider with a medical condition who is carrying a medical certificate that states a medical practitioner believes the rider should be allowed to ride on the footpath.
- A rider accompanying a rider with a medical condition.

The Lismore CBD block (area bounded by Woodlark, Keen, Magellan & Molesworth Streets) is managed as a 'NO BICYCLE ZONE'. All bicycle riders must walk their bikes through signposted areas.

**When riding on a footpath, riders must keep left and give way to pedestrians.**



### **Q: Who enforces the road rules for bicycle riding?**

**A:** NSW Police.

NSW Police can issue penalty notices for breaking road rules, which includes the statutory rules outlined in the *NSW Road Rules 2014*. This includes issuing infringement notices for specific violations such as riding on a footpath or shared path and riding in a no bicycle signed and marked area.

For more information about bicycles visit

[www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/roads-safety-and-rules/bicycle-safety-and-rules](http://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/roads-safety-and-rules/bicycle-safety-and-rules)  
or contact Council on 6625 0500.

To report an incident call Lismore Police on 6626 0599.