

# QuickSmarts

## Penalty increases for high-risk driving offences



Penalties will increase from 1 July 2022 to discourage dangerous driving such as speeding, failure to wear a correctly fitted seatbelt, and disobeying traffic lights. These behaviours continue to cause serious injuries and lives lost on our roads.

### What are the new penalties?

From 1 July 2022, penalties will increase for:

#### Speeding

1-10km/hr	<b>\$287</b> and 1 demerit point
11-20km/hr	<b>\$431</b> and 3 demerit points
21-30km/hr	<b>\$646</b> and 4 demerit points
31-40km/hr	<b>\$1078</b> and 6 demerit points
More than 40km/hr	<b>\$1653</b> , 8 demerit points, and an automatic 6-month licence suspension

Double demerit points apply for a second or subsequent offence committed within 1 year of the previous offence (for speeding offences 21km/hr and above).

#### Seatbelts

**\$1078** and 4 demerit points

Penalties apply for failure to wear a correctly fitted seatbelt for drivers and passengers (unless exempt) or a properly fitted child restraint.

Double demerit points apply for a second or subsequent offence committed within 1 year of the previous offence.

#### Disobeying traffic signals

Including not stopping at yellow or red traffic lights and yellow or red bus and tram lights.

**\$575** and 3 demerit points.

### What is changing?

Fines and demerit points are increasing to align with other similar offences and to deter dangerous high-risk driving behaviours.

The road rules for speeding, seatbelts and child restraints, and obeying traffic lights have **not** changed.

### How do I pay a fine?

If you do receive a penalty, you can pay the fine in full or in instalments. You can pay the fine via BPay, online, at Australia Post, by post, or in person at a Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre or Queensland Government Agent Program office.

For more information on how to pay a fine follow the instructions on the infringement notice and you also visit [qld.gov.au/transport/safety/fines/pay](https://qld.gov.au/transport/safety/fines/pay)



Pay a fine

### What if I cannot afford the penalty?

We want people to know about the penalty increases to encourage drivers to curb any dangerous driving habits that they might have. This will increase safety on our roads and avoid unnecessary financial hardship. However, if someone is struggling to pay a fine, there are options available such as payment instalment plans or by entering into a voluntary work and development order with the State Penalty Enforcement Register (SPER), which includes:

- undertaking treatment or counselling
- attending educational, vocational or life skills courses
- completing unpaid work with an approved hardship partner.

## What are the rules for speeding?

Approximately half of all serious speed-related crashes happen at less than 10km/h above the limit. Speeding, at all levels, is dangerous and will not be tolerated.

'Speeding' means driving faster than the posted speed limit.

Driving to the speed limit and to the conditions keeps the driver, passengers, and other road users safe. It also allows the driver more time to react to the actions of other vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists and to changes in the road environment, such as obstacles or changing lights.

## What are the rules for seatbelts and child restraints?



A seatbelt can be the difference between life and death. A seatbelt should be worn with the buckle low on the hip and lap part across the pelvis and hips. The sash part should run from the shoulder across the chest and above the stomach. Except in very limited circumstances for drivers of certain classes of vehicles, it is the law that a driver is responsible for all vehicle occupants wearing a properly fitted seatbelt or child restraint.

For more information about child restraints visit [qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/children](https://qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/children) or seatbelt rules visit [qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/road/seatbelt-rules](https://qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/road/seatbelt-rules)



Child  
restraint  
rules



Seatbelt  
rules

## What are the rules for traffic lights?

Traffic lights control the flow of vehicles and pedestrians to improve safety and access to the road. Driving to the posted speed limit or to the conditions, allows drivers to react if the traffic lights changes. Drivers must stop at a red light or arrow and stop on a yellow light or arrow, unless it is unsafe to do so (such as making way for an emergency vehicle). Drivers of a bus, taxi or limousine and riders of bicycles using a bus lane can proceed past a white B-light.

For more information about traffic signal rules visit [qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/road/traffic-lights](https://qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/road/traffic-lights)



Traffic  
light rules

## How are we making Queensland roads safer for all?

Traffic offences caught on camera, whether fixed, mobile, point-to-point, or police roadside enforcement are part of the Camera Detected Offence Program. Money collected from camera fines is used to fund important road safety initiatives and education across Queensland. Over time, we hope these reforms will result in a reduction in offences and encourage safer driving behaviours on our roads.

- 1 The speeding penalty bracket of 1-12km/hr and 13-20km/hr will change to 1-10km/hr and 11-20km/hr to reflect risk and align Queensland with many other Australian jurisdictions.
- 2 Drivers of taxis, booked hire services, and bus drivers have some limited exemptions from passenger seatbelt offences.

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