



**COMMON ROADS
COMMON SENSE**

Case Study

Case Study 3: Kelly Smith

Moving away from the family farm to the city has given Kelly Smith, 24, time to reflect on the unique characteristics of both country and city driving.

Raised on a mixed grain and livestock property in Western Australia's wheatbelt, Kelly now lives in Perth where she works in health promotion, however she has also spent time employed in grain receival sites in rural areas. This has given her an inside knowledge of the types of scenarios drivers may encounter when traveling in the regions.

Kelly said one of the most important situations for drivers to be aware of is how to drive safely around Large Agricultural Machinery (LAVs) like tractors, harvesters and spray rigs.

"Being from a farm and working across many harvest seasons, I have seen the entire process from crop to receival site, so I absolutely understand the need for agricultural machinery to travel on main roads," she said.

"It really is an important part of our farmers being able to provide us with the food and fibre we all need."

Kelly said impatience is the biggest danger when general road users encounter LAVs, with a lack of awareness of just how much drivers need to slow down also a key problem.

"Pilot vehicles and 'oversize' signage is there for a reason – to allow you to prepare and adapt. In my experience, the farmer will often try their best to get out of the way and to help you pass safely," she said.

"From what I've seen, near-miss incidents happen when people don't slow down as they approach agricultural machinery, but rather slam on the breaks, also creating a dangerous situation for the cars behind them."

Kelly also implored drivers to take particular care in peak farming seasons when there are more types of LAVs on the roads, more often.

The NFF's Common Roads, Common Sense, three-step approach includes:

1. Look out: Roads are built for all Australians and not all vehicles travel at maximum speed. Be aware of farmers, cyclists and trucks that might be slower.
2. Slow down: Most accidents with LAVs in Australia are rear-end collisions due to differing travelling speeds. Slow down when you see a slower vehicle ahead.



#commonroadsccommonsense



**National Farmers'
FEDERATION**



COMMON ROADS COMMON SENSE

Case Study

3. Take Care: when overtaking, make sure it is safe to do so and you have enough space – take a moment to evaluate the situation. When an LAV heads your way slow down and give the oncoming vehicles plenty of space.

For more information, visit farmers.org.au.

About 'Common Roads, Common Sense'

Sometimes, Australian farmers need to drive large agricultural machinery on public roadways to move from farm to farm, which can seem confusing, frustrating or overwhelming for other drivers.

Farmers are aware of the issues this can cause, and want to work with all road users to make interactions between these machines and other traffic calm and safe.

The National Farmers' Federation's 'Common Roads, Common Sense' campaign outlines simple steps to help guide driver behaviour – Look out, slow down and take care.

This project is part of the National Farmers' Federation's Sharing the Road Campaign (agricultural industry), funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiatives Program, with the support of the Commonwealth Government.



#commonroadscommonsense



**National Farmers'
FEDERATION**