



COMMON ROADS COMMON SENSE

Case Study

Case Study 2: Richard Meally

Richard Meally is no stranger to spending hours behind the wheel on country roads.

Now 70, and after 30 years as a truck driver, Richard and his wife, Lindy, embarked on life as grey nomads five years ago, travelling across the nation towing their caravan.

His extensive driving experience has provided Richard, originally from Beacroft in New South Wales, with detailed insights into driving around Large Agricultural Vehicles (LAVs) like tractors, harvesters and spray rigs, and how to safely navigate this interaction.

“It’s important for drivers to be aware of the danger they themselves can create in these situations as safety really is a joint responsibility between general motorists and drivers of large farm machinery,” Richard said.

“If you find yourself travelling behind LAVs, you must be patient in any situation. I have seen agricultural machinery taking up three-quarters of the road, and cars try to overtake them in dangerous situations purely out of irritation.”

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.
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.

Richard’s experience driving on country roads and encountering LAVs has equipped him well to anticipate potential dangers. But, he says this isn’t the case for everyone – particularly drivers who are unfamiliar with rural conditions.

“You need to remain mindful that the type of situations you may come across on country roads are different, and adapt accordingly. From what I have seen it is generally a lack of knowledge and understanding that can create potentially dangerous situations.

“Look out, slow down and take care – it really is just common sense.”



#commonroadsc commonsense



**National Farmers'
FEDERATION**



COMMON ROADS COMMON SENSE

Case Study

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.



#commonroadsccommonsense



**National Farmers'
FEDERATION**