

# The Three Second Rule

## ROAD SAFETY FACT SHEET

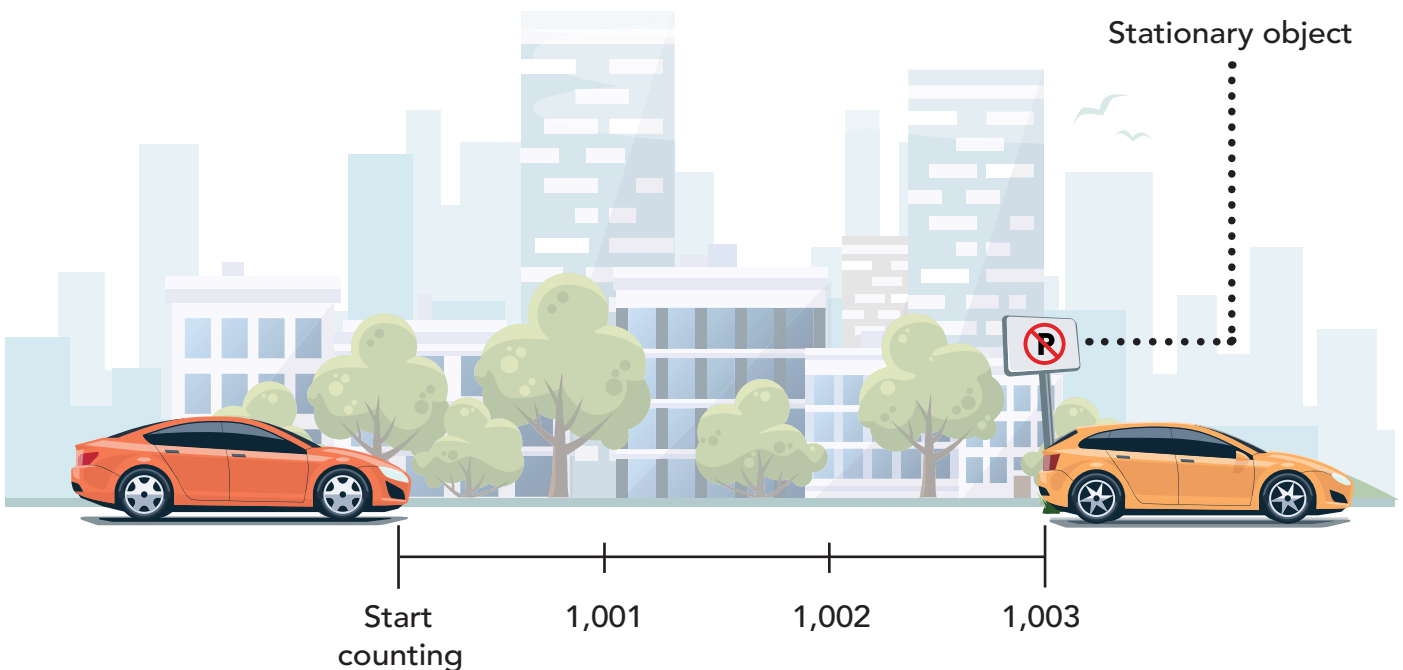
For more information contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 8757 9000

### How to apply the rule.

Select a stationary point ahead i.e. tree, parked car, power pole etc.

When the vehicle in front of you passes that point, begin counting: 1,001 (One thousand and one), 1,002 (One thousand and two), 1,003 (One thousand and three).

If you reach that point before you count to 1,003, **slow down** as you're too close to the vehicle in front.



The key safety issue related to the following distance is to understand what happens in that short period of 1-2 seconds with your speed and the distance you pass while reacting.

Your total stopping distance is actually made up of your reaction distance and braking distance - the distance it takes your car to stop once you've pressed the brake.

Stopping distances vary according to driver conditions, road and weather conditions and vehicle conditions.

Driver reaction time is the time that passes from the moment the driver sees the hazard, the brain realizes it is a hazard requiring an immediate reaction and the time that it takes to move the foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal (an average 1.5 second). Response speed depends on several factors thus there is no single, universal reaction time value.

Reaction time can take from 1 second to 4 seconds depending on many variables such as the driver (tired, fatigued, sick, drunk, age, gender), visibility, time of the day, mental load, urgency, expectation etc.

**Driving Behind Another Vehicle Too Closely to Stop Safely** *Australian Road Rule - 126-127*

**Fine: from \$481 + 3 Demerit Points**