

Hi Phil

Your email to the SA Motor Editor has been forwarded to me for response. You are correct when you say that there is nowhere in the SA legislation that mentions the legality or otherwise of either lane splitting or lane filtering.

The Australian Road Rules Maintenance Group (ARRMG) considered this issue in 2006, because some States were I believe lobbying for specific legislation outlawing the two practices. SA was not one of those States as far as I am aware.

The matter was not proceeded with because the view of the ARRMG was that both of the movements were already illegal under the Australian Road Rules. This was based on a combination of the requirements under ARR's 141, 144, 146, 147 and 148 some of which you mention in your email.

ARR 141 - No overtaking etc. to the left of a vehicle

ARR 144 - Keeping a safe distance when overtaking

ARR 146 - Driving within a single marked lane or line of traffic

ARR 147 - Moving from one marked lane to another marked lane across a continuous line separating the lanes

ARR 148 - Giving way when moving from one marked lane or line of traffic to another marked lane or line of traffic

Outside of those rules there also needs to be consideration given to ARR 46 (2) and 48 (2) which both require indication for either left or right movements of vehicles to be indicated for "long enough to give sufficient warning to other drivers and pedestrians".

Finally for those motorcyclists who reach the head of the queue there is the issue of complying with ARR 56 which requires a driver to stop "as near as practicable to, but before reaching, the stop line;

Having said all of that I apologize that the paragraph on page 19 of the SA Motor does read as if there is a specific offence and the inclusion of a penalty further enhances that false impression. The penalty included in the paragraph is the penalty for breaches of ARR 146 and 147.

Regards

Graeme O'Dea  
Senior Legal Advisor  
RAA Group  
101 Richmond Road, Mile End SA 5031