

Submission 77 – RVS Legislation Consultation

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To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Road Vehicle Standards Bills, released in December 2018 by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

VicRoads supports the reform in broad terms and the proposed package of bills to strengthen and modernise the Motor Vehicle Standards Act. In our collective efforts to improve road safety, Victoria, along with other jurisdictions and the Commonwealth, have worked hard over the years to mandate and influence the uptake of many vehicle safety technologies into Australia's vehicle fleet.

To this end, it is important for the Commonwealth government to continue setting high vehicle safety standards for imported vehicles, so that safety features in the general fleet continue to improve and increase over time. An essential element of maintaining high vehicle safety standards remain in the implementation phase, where the Commonwealth must ensure that agreed policy outcomes including that of volume restrictions are strictly enforced, coupled with the need to introduce a robust vehicle certification process. This is particularly important for vehicles imported under the concessional import schemes.

VicRoads remains concerned of the decision to allow certain late model left-hand drive vehicles to be imported into Australia without a requirement to convert them into right hand drive. While it is noted that the importation approval does not exempt them from State and Territory registration requirements, this change will create confusion amongst the general motoring public and there is a risk that individuals who import a vehicle under the rarity criterion will not be able to have them registered. This also places unnecessary pressure on States and Territories to accept these vehicles, which do not meet vehicle standards.

Finally, Victoria is currently remaking its state regulations governing vehicle standards therefore, a suitable lead in time is required to ensure Victoria's regulations, administrative framework and system changes can be put in place to support the implementation of this reform.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr James Soot VicRoads' Manager Vehicle and Motorcycle Policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Matta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Matta

Acting Director — Road User and Vehicle

Access e O/ 02 / 2018