



PROPOSAL DETAIL

Reform of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* Concessional Vehicle Imports

The *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (the Act) provides the regulatory framework to control safety, environmental and anti-theft performance of all vehicles entering the Australian market for the first time – both new and used. The reforms will deliver modernised legislation to increase community safety, provide greater choice and protection for consumers, and remove unnecessary red tape on businesses.

The Australian Government will continue to provide concessional import arrangements for the importation of vehicles otherwise not available in Australia and in other special circumstances. These arrangements allow for the importation and supply of vehicles that do not meet the national standards (the Australian Design Rules).

The reforms will replace the existing 12 concessional importation schemes with four simplified streams, providing improved regulatory efficiency.

The current scheme allowing unrestricted importation of vehicles manufactured before 1 January 1989 will be amended, allowing the importation of passenger vehicles, light commercials and motorcycles that are at least 25 years old. This will provide motorists with access to a greater range of classic and historic vehicles. Arrangements will remain in place to accommodate temporary importation of vehicles, vehicles for non-road use, special purpose vehicles and vehicles owned and used overseas (the current Personal Import Scheme). The four simplified streams are:

- **Temporary/non-road-use vehicles** – which are not permitted general access for permanent road use.
- **Non-standard vehicles** – which are necessary for specialised operations, or for which there is a reasonable case to allow importation for use on public roads, including vehicles owned and used overseas (the current Personal Imports).
- **Older vehicles** – which are eligible 25 years after manufacture; limited to passenger cars, light commercial vehicles (less than 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass) and motorcycles.
- **Heavy and light trailers** – imported trailers, including caravans and camper trailers, will be required to meet the same standards as locally manufactured trailers.

Temporary/non-road use vehicles

The temporary/non-road use vehicle stream will allow for the importation of:

- vehicles for exhibition;
- race and rally vehicles;
- test and evaluation vehicles that are not for use on public roads; and
- heavily modified vehicles including custom vehicles and 'hot rods'.



Non-standard vehicles

The non-standard vehicles stream will allow for the importation of:

- test and evaluation vehicles for use on public roads;
- non-compliant plant and equipment where a standard vehicle cannot perform the function (such as drilling rigs, cranes, and specialist mining vehicles);
- vehicles owned and used overseas for a minimum of 12 months by migrants or returning Australians (the current Personal Import Scheme); and
- other specialised vehicles such as military equipment and airport fire trucks.

Some non-standard vehicles may be required to meet a minimum set of standards or to be modified under the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme. For more information on the Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme, please refer to the 'Registered Automotive Workshop Scheme' Info Sheet (Info Sheet 3).

Older vehicles

The older vehicles stream will allow for the importation of passenger cars, light commercial vehicles (less than 3.5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass) and motorcycles that are at least 25 years old.

Vehicles imported through the older vehicles stream may be required to be modified in order to be registered by State and Territory authorities. The Australian Government will work with State and Territory regulators to establish appropriate requirements for these vehicles.

Heavy and light trailers

Imported trailers and caravans will be required to meet the same standards as those manufactured locally. All imported trailers and caravans will continue to require Vehicle Import Approval from the Australian Government.

For more information on certification changes for light trailers, please refer to the 'Full Volume New Vehicles' Info Sheet (Info Sheet 1).