

MOTOR VEHICLE STANDARDS ACT 1989

Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 79/02 — Emission Control for Light Vehicles) 2005

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

**Issued by the authority of the Minister for Local Government,
Territories and Roads**

December 2005

1. Legislative Context for ADR79/02

Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 79/02 — Emission Control for Light Vehicles) is made under the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (the Act). The Act enables the Australian Government to establish nationally uniform standards for road vehicles when they are first supplied to the market in Australia. The Act applies to such vehicles whether they are manufactured in Australia or are imported as new or second hand vehicles.

The making of the vehicle standards necessary for the Act's effective operation is provided for in section 7 which empowers the Minister to "determine vehicle standards for road vehicles or vehicle components".

2. Content and Effect of ADR 79/02

ADR79/02 prescribes future emission limits for light vehicles, and the standard test methods for measuring those emissions. ADR79/02 will significantly lower emission levels of air pollutants from new light vehicles and will bring Australian standards into alignment with the latest international standards set by the United Nations (UN).

ADR 79/02 adopts the *Euro 4* requirements of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regulation 83/05 for light petrol and gaseous fuelled vehicles. The full text of this Regulation is included as Appendix A to ADR 79/02.

3. Consultation Arrangements

3.1 General Arrangements

It has been longstanding practice to consult widely on proposed new or amended vehicle standards. For many years there has been active collaboration between the Australian and the State/Territory Governments, as well as consultation with industry and consumer groups. Much of the consultation takes place within institutional arrangements established for this purpose. The analysis and documentation prepared in a particular case, and the bodies consulted, depend on the degree of impact the new or amended standard is expected to have on industry or road users.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Transport Commission (NTC) and the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) sets out the consultative arrangements governing the development of vehicle emissions and noise standards and other vehicle/environmental issues. The MOU established the Land Transport Environment Committee (LTEC) (consisting of four representatives each from transport and environment agencies), to undertake an agreed work program consistent with the MOU.

Depending on the nature of the proposed changes, consultation may involve the Transport Emissions Liaison Group (TELG), Transport Agencies Chief Executives (TACE), National Environment Protection Council Committee (NEPC Committee),

Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) and the Australian Transport Council (ATC).

TELG is the main consultative group that supports LTEC. It contains representatives of:

- transport and environment agencies ;
- the manufacturing arms of the vehicle and fuels industry (including the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, the Truck Industry Council and the Australian Institute of Petroleum);
- road user organisations (the Australian Automobile Association and the Australian Trucking Association); and
- the National Environment Consultative Forum.

TACE consists of the chief executives of national and State/Territory departments of transport and road vehicle administrations.

ATC consists of the Commonwealth, State/Territory and New Zealand Ministers with responsibility for transport issues. NEPC consists of Commonwealth and State/Territory Ministers with responsibility for environment issues.

Editorial changes and changes to correct errors are settled by agreement between the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the NTC. This process is only invoked where the amendments do not vary the intent of the national standard.

New standards, or significant changes that increase the stringency of existing standards, are subject to a vote by ATC Ministers. Unless disapproved by a majority of ATC Ministers, the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, can then determine the new or amended standards, under the authority of the Minister for Transport and Regional Services. Proposals that are regarded as significant need to be supported by a Regulation Impact Statement meeting the requirements of the Office of Regulation Review as published in *A Guide to Regulation*.

3.2 Specific Arrangements for this Standard

In the case of ADR 79/02, Ministers of the Australian Transport Council voted to approve the standard in April 2005. The Ministers of the National Environment Protection Council also endorsed the standard. ADR 79/02 was one of the standards recommended by report of the Vehicle Emissions and Fuel Quality Standards Review for the Post 2006 Period. The Review involved extensive consultation including:

- public discussion paper – released May 2003;
- a full day seminar for all stakeholders – 19 June 2003;
- public release of a draft Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) – December 2003;
- direct consultations with key stakeholders – February 2004; and
- consideration of stakeholder submissions to the discussion paper and the draft RIS.

A cost benefit analysis was commissioned as part of the Review. A copy of the final RIS is at Attachment A to this Explanatory Statement. Chapter 7 of the RIS details the consultation arrangements.