

Update on Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Australia (CVIAA) action on issues with ROVER IT platform

Members of the VACC Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Victoria (CVIAV) have expressed serious and on-going concerns to VACC regarding the implementation of the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018 (RVSA)* and Road Vehicle Regulator (ROVER) IT system, which underpins the certification and approval of vehicles for the Australian market.

The concerns have been escalated to the federal arena where the Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Australia (CVIAA) President Clive Polley has chaired multiple CVIAA meetings to shed light on the issue.

What have been the concerns of CVIAA members?

The concerns of CVIAA members have been repeatedly conveyed to both the previous Minister and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts (the Department), but have failed to be addressed.

You can take this [link](#) to see a list of the issues confronting the industry. This list has been forwarded to the Department.

Some of these concerns relate directly to the RVSA and subordinate legislation, while others relate to the implementation arrangements, which includes the ROVER IT system and functional arrangements relating to how the Department interacts with industry.

For e.g., the matter of an approval period of 60 days stands out as a major impediment to business given the previous system only had a 32 day wait period.[\[1\]](#) This action has created a bunching of vehicles waiting certification for months and months on end. This is of great cost to industry and other entities in the supply chain.

What action has CVIAA taken to help alleviate the situation?

CVIAA, in collaboration with a range of industry stakeholders has begun a coordinated response in approaching the offices of the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP and Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, (Senator the Hon Carol Brown MP) to stress in the most direct of terms about how the implementation of the new ROVER IT system is failing the industry.

That response from CVIAA has resulted in face-to-face dialogue between Geoff Gwilym, the interim CEO of the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA), Minister King, her advisors, and other stakeholders. [\[2\]](#)

The CEO of Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) meets with the Minister

Recently the interim CEO of MTAA met with Minister King to outline the main failures of the ROVER IT platform. Importantly, it was highlighted to the Minister that industry was not being properly consulted on the way the system should be configured. It was pointed out that the new system was a 'nameless' system meaning dialogue with the Department from Industry on issues was nigh on impossible.

Some of the outcomes from the meeting include:

- Advice that the Minister is not unsympathetic to the plight of industry and has advised that she wants to see the system fully adopted.
- It is unlikely that any extensions on transition times will be provided.
- The MTAA CEO has formally asked the Minister's senior advisor (and Sen. Carol Brown) to direct MTAA to the person(s) responsible for making changes to the program, with a view to establishing an urgent industry/government stakeholder meeting on this matter.
- It has been conveyed to both the Ministers that what industry is really looking for is genuine engagement from the Department responsible for ROVER and with a view to listening and acting on the critical matters being raised.
- The position of MTAA is supported by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) and the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA).

How would a meeting with the Department ideally be conducted?

At the most practical level MTAA and CVIAA would like to bring a small group of specialist commercial vehicle Type Approval business members into a room, along with the technical people in the Department, to show live examples of how the ROVER system is failing industry.

From the observations provided by CVIAV members, and viewed firsthand by the MTAA CEO, it appears that the sorts of things industry is seeking relate to coding and format changes in the system that would enable members to get on with their work.

CVIAV waits patiently for the Senator to advise on the next steps.

CVIAV will keep you posted.

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[1] This period can be even longer and backdated when there is any change to the approval.

[2] The MTAA is the national federation of the state-based MTAs that includes the Commercial Vehicle Industry of Australia (CVIAA) under its umbrella.