

# Bulletin

## Towing Operators Division



Reference No. Rule 79A/kz-3-22

Date: 28/03/2022

### TRIAL OF ROAD RULE 79A AND ALTERNATIVE FLASHING LIGHTS UPDATE

Dear Members

#### Background

The Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC) has been lobbying the Victorian Government to have towing operators included in the protections afforded by Road Rule 79A. In addition to this, VACC is advocating for tow operators to be able to use magenta or other coloured warning lights at the scene of an accident or at a roadside tow.

Further to our Bulletin issued on [28/09/2021](#), and as part of the Victorian Governments first [Road Safety Action plan \(2021-2023\)](#) an 18 month trial commenced in late 2021 to understand drivers and riders response when passing Vic Roads Incidence Response (IRS) Vehicles using different colour flashing light combinations. The trial is using incident data collected on the Monash Freeway, measuring the passing speed of motorists when a Vic Roads IRS vehicle is attending an incident. The trial is also reviewing how motorists respond when passing **tow truck operators** and other first responders.

Once the trial concludes and sufficient data is collected, consideration to extending Road Rule 79A to other at-risk cohorts like towing operators will begin. VACC meets with Executive Management from Road Safety Victoria on a regular basis to ensure consideration of extending Road Rule 79A to at-risk cohorts, including towing operators, continues, in addition to this, VACC will also continue to lobby for an alternate colour light scheme.

VACC can confirm data from the trial has been collected and is currently being reviewed by Vic Roads.

#### VACC's Request

In an endeavour to support the trial Victoria Police is also evaluating whether Road Rule 79A is effective in minimising or eliminating road safety hazards for those who work on or use the road for work. Given that VACC represents the towing industry that has a unique and practical insight into the safety outcomes of this law, your response to the following questions will assist VACC to develop a response to Victoria Police and their evaluation of Road Rule 79A.

Please respond via email to [kzdravevski@vacc.com.au](mailto:kzdravevski@vacc.com.au) The closing date for responses is **6 April 2022**.

#### Question 1.

In the proceeding 10 years have you or an employee suffered any incident, injury or near miss resulting from passing motor vehicles whilst attending to a tow on the side of a road? If yes, please explain what happened and if either a police vehicle, emergency vehicle, enforcement vehicle or an IRS vehicle was present with flashing lights.

#### Question 2.

How, and to what extent, has Road Rule 79A improved road safety for all Victorian road users?

**Question 3.**

What improvements to the design or application of Road Rule 79A can be made to improve road safety for all Victorian road users?

**Question 4.**

We invite you to comment on any other aspect of emergency worker roadside safety.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kathy Zdravevski [kzdravevski@vacc.com.au](mailto:kzdravevski@vacc.com.au) or 0418 329 527.

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