



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Road Safety (Vehicles) (Mass and Dimensions) Regulations 1998

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Road Safety (Vehicles) (Mass and Dimensions) Regulations 1998.

The current regulations regarding mass and dimension limits for the general transport fleet, including light vehicles, the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 1988, have been extended by the **Road Safety (Further Amendment) Act 1998**, and are due to lapse on 1 March 2000, unless sooner revoked.

The objectives of the proposed regulations are to provide nationally agreed standard mass and dimension limits, to ensure that vehicles are safe for use and are operated in a safe manner, to increase road transport efficiency and reduce the administrative costs of road transport, and to minimise wear and damage caused by vehicles to roads and related structures, including bridges.

It is proposed that the objectives of the regulations will be achieved through the establishment of nationally agreed standard mass and dimension limits and a system of notices and permits for variations to these limits.

The proposed regulations establish:

- nationally agreed standard mass and dimension limits for vehicles;
- classes of vehicles which may safely exceed the standard mass and dimension limits;
- a regime for exemptions from the limits in certain instances;
- administrative fees.

The RIS examined the implementation of industry self regulation as an alternative to the proposed regulations. Whilst industry self regulation would result in reduced enforcement costs, it was considered that a substantial reduction of road and bridge asset values due to significant breaches of agreed limits, would

result. For this reason, maintaining a set of regulations would minimise the deterioration of Victoria's road and bridges caused by heavy vehicles, and provide for the safe movement of goods and passengers by vehicles.

The RIS concluded that the proposed regulations are the most cost effective and efficient means of meeting the objectives.

The proposed regulations would implement the agreed national policy approved by the Ministerial Council for Road Transport. Each Australian State and Territory has agreed to adopt similar regulations. During development of the national policy, the National Road Transport Commission consulted widely.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying regulations. Copies may be obtained from VicRoads Bookshop, telephone (03) 9854 2782 or by e-mail to Bookshop@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au. Written submissions will be received up to 5.00 p.m. on Saturday 9 January 1999 at the following address: General Manager, Traffic & Road Use Management, VicRoads, Level 2, 60 Denmark Street, Kew, Vic. 3101 or by e-mail to Pipert@vrnotes.roads.vic.gov.au.

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

Dated Saturday 12 December 1998.

COLIN JORDAN
Chief Executive

Gazette Services

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