

# Review of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework

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# About Austroads

## Who we are

Austroads is the association of Australian and New Zealand transport agencies. We provide authoritative, practical and impartial advice, information, tools and services to our members and a range of other key stakeholders across government, industry and communities.

Austroads member agencies are:

- Transport for NSW
- Department of Transport and Planning Victoria
- Department of Transport and Main Roads Queensland
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Department for Infrastructure and Transport South Australia
- Department of State Growth Tasmania
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Northern Territory
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate Australian Capital Territory
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Australian Local Government Association
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Austroads comprises several business activities, including the Austroads work program, the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS), and Transport Certification Australia (TCA).



# National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework

A nationally-harmonised framework for licensing bus, truck and crane drivers.

Today I'll cover the review of the framework:

1. The context and rationale for change
2. The approach we're taking
3. Specific changes under consideration, and
4. Next steps.



# 1. Context and rationale for change

Heavy vehicle crash risks are high.

Heavy vehicles' size brings inherent risks

- Size and mass (momentum/energy) affect crash outcomes
- For buses, passenger numbers increase consequences

Heavy vehicles have an exposure risk

- Make up 9% of all VKT (15% of fatal crashes)
- Often light vehicle driver error

Fortunately, heavy vehicle drivers are more experienced and safer than the average driver





# 1. Context and rationale for change

The objective is to reduce road trauma. There are three key problems and one important consideration.

## Problems with the current system

1. Licensing is not focused on key risks
2. Training quality affected by governance arrangements
3. Driver licensing is inconsistent across Australia

## Consideration for the future system

Changes to licensing should not compromise:

- the availability of professional drivers
- the use of higher productivity vehicles, or
- reasonable access to licences for personal use

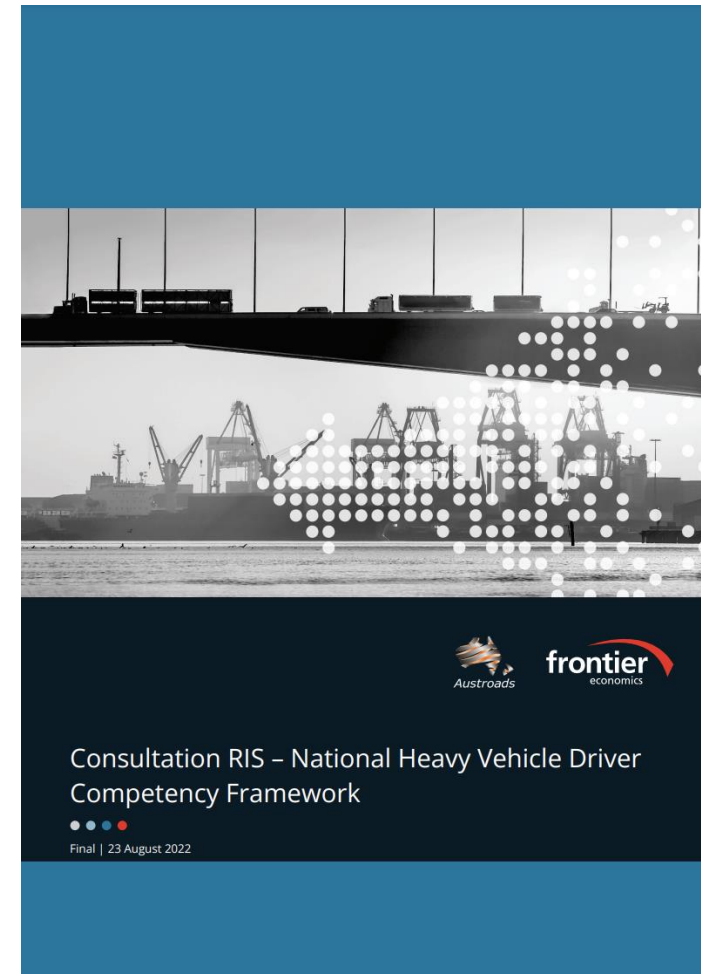


## 2. The approach to the review

The goal is to deliver a nationally-consistent framework for heavy vehicle driver licensing.

Austroads has worked with jurisdictions, industry and others to:

- create an 'exemplar framework'
- from that, develop a set of workable changes
- analyse the regulation impacts and consult broadly:
  - Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (C-RIS)
  - video explainers
  - fact sheets/FAQs
  - presentations, webinars and podcasts.
- finalise a refined package for agreement and implementation.



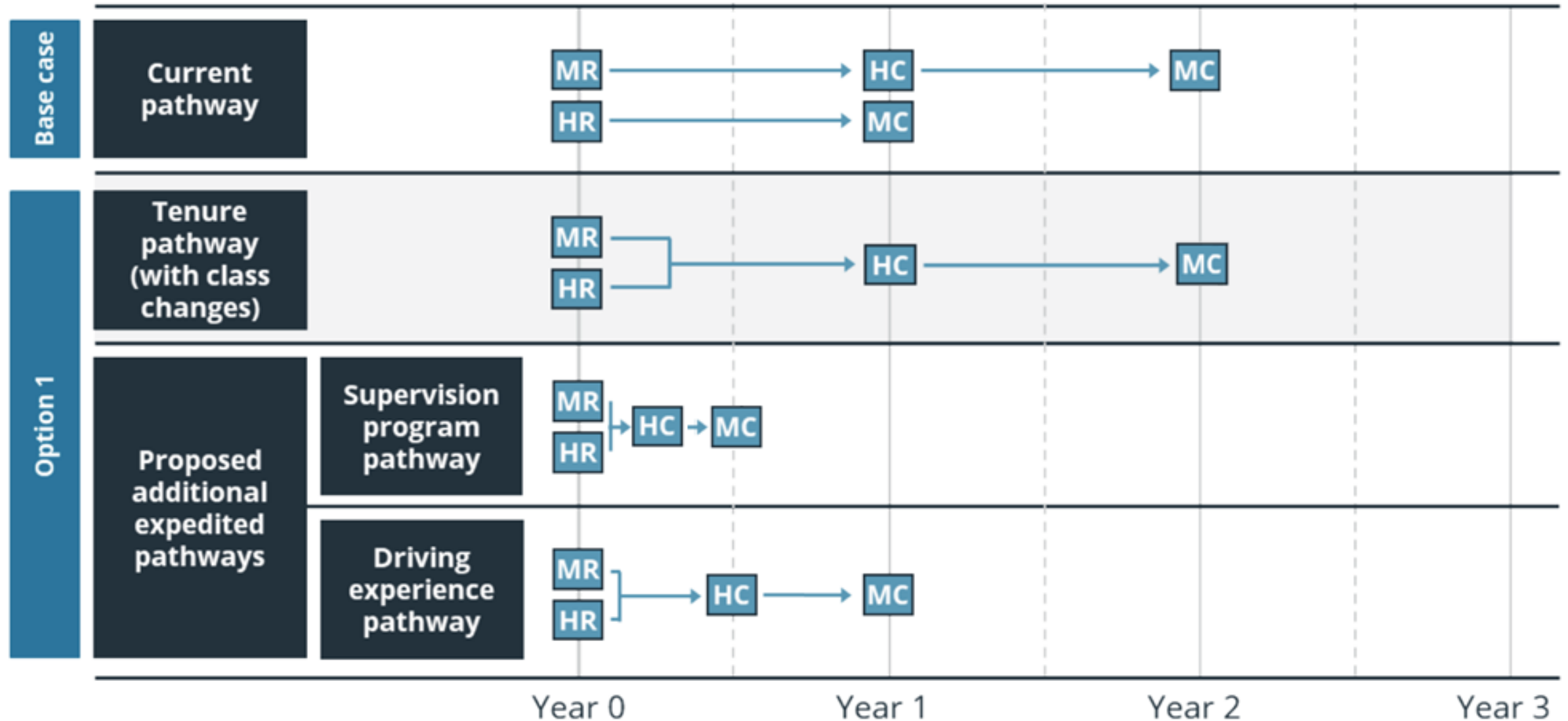
# 3. Changes under consideration - drivers

The review aims to increase the number of safe and job-ready drivers.

- Enhanced driver competencies
- Affective state (attitudinal) considerations to complement technical skills
- HC as a prerequisite for MC class licence
- New progression options that recognise training and experience.



### 3. Changes under consideration - drivers





### 3. Changes under consideration - driver trainers

The review aims to improve the quality and oversight of driver training.

- Minimum training course requirements
- On-line learning options
- Improved governance arrangements.



## 4. Next steps

If approved, there will be practical considerations.

Australia's transport ministers are currently considering the proposed changes.

If agreed, Austroads will:

- present the results
- work with state and territory driver licensing authorities to develop implementation plans
- coordinate consultation with operators and trainers
- update ITSOC on progress
- support implementation of the new framework



# Find out more

Full information about the project is available on the Austroads website.

Use the URL: [austroads.info/NHVDCF-review](https://austroads.info/NHVDCF-review) or scan the QR code.



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# Thank you

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