



Government
of South Australia

Department for Infrastructure
and Transport

Minutes of Meeting

SUBJECT Driver Trainer Industry Association Meeting Date: 1 June 2022
LOCATION 77 Grenfell Street Start: 1.30 PM
Finish: 3.00 PM

I would like to acknowledge the Karna people of whose land we meet on today. I also pay my respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present today.

ATTENDEES:

DIT - Clare Heathcote, Stuart Gilbert

PDTA - David Whomes, Cheynie Venables, Matthew Woodman, Gary Duncis

ADTA - Linda Jackson, Elio Pisaniello, Robert Pernini

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Apologies: Andre Simmonds

2. **Previous minutes**

Action Items reviewed. (See Appendix 1)

3. **General business**

3.1 Double standards with the code of conduct.

David Whomes (DW) explained that industry members report incidents of situations where they either feel unsafe or are confronted with inappropriate or sexually suggestive behaviour by clients at times. His opinion is that the department does not take strong enough action towards the behaviour of the public during testing or lessons or 'flag' clients to warn others that may test them in the future. Their concern is that they can be put in vulnerable or dangerous situations and would like to be able to warn other examiners of the behaviour of the student. Clare Heathcote advised that DIT understand their concerns however, the department cannot take any action based on hearsay and third-party recounts of incidents without proof or further investigation.

Clare Heathcote advised that DIT regulates the industry to enforce certain behaviour and standards but does not have any oversight over members of the public. She advised that incidents of bribery should be reported to the police, auditors are not sent out as security guards and that TRUMPS cannot be used as a tool to flag behaviour from a member of the public. CH advised that examiners could refuse to take on certain clients or should consider that the best protection may be the use of cameras.

Note Taker: K Bower

File: 2021/17499/01

Document: Knet 18942607

3.2 New government's agenda with road safety

Industry enquired about the two new ministers elected, and Stuart Gilbert advised that Tom Koutsantonis is the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Joe Szakacs is the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. He advised that the majority of consultation by DIT is with the Minister for Transport however some crossover occurs at times.

No information on the new governments' road safety agenda has been revealed at this time.

3.3 What is happening with proposed bill? / Likelihood of resubmission of proposed bill?

CH informed industry representatives that with the recent attention brought to the driver training industry after the release of the ICAC report 'Failing the Corruption Road Test' on 17 May 2022, Minister Koutsantonis has publicly announced that he is looking to take some action quickly. The department is seeking direction and has supplied briefings regarding the proposed bill.

Any legislative amendments made will then include drafting and consultation and it is likely that the minister will consider the recommendations made by the Commissioner in the ICAC Report however there is no further information at this stage.

3.4 Auditors and appointments

Recruitment for recent vacancies has now been completed. One unplaced person from within the department with suitable background has been taken on to shadow our assessment officers with a view to potentially being placed on the team in the future. The two ongoing positions advertised are filled and further additional vacancies will become available in the future once current training is completed.

3.5 Confusion about the RTO requirements and TILE students

The latest industry bulletin provided information on TILE that industry found confusing, so they are now seeking clarity on whether an Authorised Examiner who is not aligned with any RTO or operating under a deed can conduct Module 3 of this course.

Clare Heathcote explained that historically RTOs were conducting Module 1 and 2 but then some students were going interstate to obtain their licence in instead of undertaking Module 3 here in this state. As other states do not conduct the course in the same way as SA, the policy was changed to ensure the entire course is conducted in SA. The policy also stated it must be done through an RTO holding a TILE deed.

Conflicting communications were sent by the department in recent times causing industry members to question the correct requirements. Clare apologized for causing the confusion which came about through the policy change initially.

Action item: Clare to provide clarification on this issue.

3.6 What is the new pricing as a 1 July 2022

The new fees are available via the Government Gazette and change on July 1, 2022. Licence test bookings will increase from \$34 to \$35.

3.7 Heavy vehicle AEs

Industry members advised that there is a shortage of heavy vehicle Authorised Examiners at present. Clare acknowledged that it is well known and that with a shortage of heavy vehicle drivers, trainers and assessors at present the department processes applications as they are submitted however recruitment is not within its' scope of responsibility.

A query was raised regarding the HC to MC upgrade process and CH advise she will organise a review of the current process to ensure it is relevant and appropriate for the vehicle class. Industry members have advised that the current MC upgrade process does not seem necessary and asked Clare to investigate this and clarify the reason for the current process.

Stuart Gilbert (SG) asked the industry representatives why they are not seizing the opportunity to work with the demand for heavy vehicle drivers to be trained? David Whomes advised that Authorised Examiners make more money working for themselves than for the RTO's who conduct the heavy vehicle training courses. The group discussed this at length and CH asked everyone to consider what could be done to encourage heavy vehicle trainers to the industry.

DW has noticed that the heavy vehicle learner permit is now plastic and asked why this has been introduced?

Action item: R Pernini asked for the reason DIT to provide clarification on the current process for upgrading to MC from HC.

Action item: CH will investigate why the heavy vehicle permits are no longer paper.

3.8 ICAC Report

Industry representatives were curious about where information is gained for ICAC reports so CH explained the process and that individual investigations were conducted for the report to be compiled. The department has not received any feedback since the report was completed. There was general discussion about the report and the importance of a register for all instructors and examiners was mentioned once again by industry representatives.

3.9 Bill modification (industry consultation)

Industry would like assurance that there will be an opportunity for consultation as provided with the previous bill? CH assured everyone that this would be the case.

3.10 Selection criteria for accreditation courses, due to many complaints

Elio Pisaniello is receiving complaints from their members about not being accepted (for exemption from the moratorium).

DIT's position in general is that Authorised Examiners are not being approved as per the current moratorium however at various times recently a shortage was identified (CBT&A – C class).

At present there are 19 applications that have been approved and are in the process of being trained and others have also been approved in the last twelve months. The criteria for exemption from the moratorium has not changed and each application will be considered based on its' merits and the information supplied at that time.

3.11 Route PH05 – Park Holme

Linda Jackson mentioned that this route is very long and needs revision. She offered to help DIT with this and had previously discussed this with Dawn Kanofski during revision of another route. She has said there is a new Motor Driving Instructor in Mount Barker who contacted her to advise that the three routes in Mount Barker take at least an hour whereas LJ thinks they should be 35 to 45 minutes ideally. She advised this instructor to design some routes as he wanted to, and LJ would submit them as proposed new routes to DIT. CH was happy for this to go ahead if the person wished to do this work and also mentioned she is keen to see AEs working together with our DIT Authorised Officers to fix issues with routes as they arise.

3.12 VORT route instructions in italics (to voice or not)

LJ asked for clarification on the question, 'should Authorised Examiners announce the commands written in italics on the route sheets?'

Action: DIT will add this information to the next industry bulletin to clarify.

4. Other business

A query was received by an association member asking when the learner plates need to be removed from their car.

Action: Add this information to the next industry bulletin to clarify.

Meeting closed: 3.00pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7 September 2022 Time: 1.30pm to 5.00pm

Appendix 1**New action items from previous meeting 1 June 2022**

Item No	Meeting Date	Action Item	Ownership	Comments
1	1/6/2022	See 3.5 – Industry require clarification on the exact requirements for Authorised Examiners regarding TILE Course Module 3 assessment. <i>This information will be provided in the next industry bulletin.</i>	Clare Heathcote	Active
2	1/6/2022	See 3.12 – Are the instructions in italics on route sheets meant to be announced? <i>This information will be provided in the next industry bulletin.</i>	Clare Heathcote	Active
3	1/6/2022	See 3.7 – R Pernini requested clarification on the current process for upgrading to MC from HC. <i>This was clarified by M Cutting directly to Mr Pernini in order to allow him to progress his HC training in August.</i>	Clare Heathcote	Closed
4	1/6/2022	See 3.7 – Industry would like to understand the reason heavy vehicle permits are no longer paper.	Clare Heathcote	Active
5	1/6/2022	See 4 (Other business) – When do 'L' plates need to be removed from a driving instructor's vehicle? <i>This information will be provided in the next industry bulletin.</i>	Clare Heathcote	Active

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Items from previous meetings - (Closed items have been removed)

Item No	Meeting Date	Action Item	Ownership	Comments
1	2/3/2022	See 3.4 (a) - David Whomes offered to provide further information on possible alternatives to the current recommended hand positions for steering. <i>DW provided information from Canada and the USA for consideration and Andre has this information</i>	David Whomes/ Andre Simmonds	Active
4	2/3/2022	See 3.6 - VORT Manual to be updated <i>Andre is almost finished this update.</i>	Andre Simmonds	Active
5	2/3/2022	See 4.4 – Clare Heathcote to discuss changing the Sunday start time for assessments with policy decision makers. <i>Still outstanding and will be followed up.</i> <i>Industry requested the possibility of reviewing this before publishing.</i>	Clare Heathcote/ Andre Simmonds	Active
7	2/3/2022	See 4.5 – Request Service SA staff check print quality and placement for Section 80 (TDP). <i>Still waiting on progress of this issue.</i>	Andre Simmonds	Active
8	2/3/2022	See 4.6 – Remind industry members where the COC is located on the DIT website. <i>Add information in the next bulletin on where to find this on the DIT website.</i>	Andre Simmonds	Active