

Traffic Management at Roadworks

Project update – March 2016

Welcome to the March edition of Traffic Management at Roadworks -- the first for 2016.

This year Transport and Main Roads continues its drive to improve traffic management at roadworks, focusing on the 3 Es of traffic management -- Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.

In this edition we take a look at driver behaviour at roadworks, the recent improvements to Traffic Management Design training, as well as all the latest on technological innovation from the Innovation Working Group.



Driver behaviour at roadworks

Road Safety Perceptions and Attitudes Tracking Survey



Queensland motorists are most likely to obey roadwork speed limits when workers are visible, according to a recent survey conducted by Transport and Main Roads.

The Road Safety Perceptions and Attitudes Tracking Survey drew its sample from an online panel of more than 300,000 members, questioning 600 respondents on topics such as speed, alcohol and driver distraction.

The survey findings have expanded our understanding of driver behaviour at roadworks in a number of areas.

When asked what would encourage them to slow down at roadworks, the most common answer from respondents was 'Presence of road workers'

(57%), followed by 'Making reduced speed limits more understandable' (50%), and 'More signage' (48%).

Signage came to the fore again later in the survey, with 69% of respondents agreeing that 'It is sometimes difficult to determine the speed limit at roadworks'.

The survey also offered some interesting findings on speed enforcement at roadworks.

58% of respondents believed they were likely to be caught by police if they sped through roadworks. However, when participants who admitted to 'sometimes speeding through roadworks' were asked what would encourage them to slow down, 'More enforcement' ranked lowest of the responses.

What's next?

The department will further analyse survey results to help profile non-compliant motorists, compare responses to roadwork items with other speed and road rule items, and develop prediction models to better understand non-compliant motorists -- all of which will be used to inform TMR's future strategy.

Traffic Management Design course update

Transition to *Open* and *Restricted* assessment

As part of its commitment to better traffic management design in Queensland, Transport and Main Roads is introducing new and more comprehensive Traffic Management Design (TMD) training. Following a detailed consultation with industry, the department is now transitioning to two assessment options for the new TMD course:

- **Open** – allowing successful participants to work on all roads throughout Queensland
- **Restricted** – successful participants restricted to only work on roads with less than 10,000 AADT.

Participants will be required to identify their preference for Open or Restricted assessment on the course attendance register, and sign accordingly.

The level of assessment will not differ between the options, however, assessment materials will be targeted to the types of road environments participants will be qualified to work on.

Assessment will still include full Traffic Management Plans (TMP), staging documents, list of Traffic Guidance Schemes (TGS), and development of TGSs. Electronic traffic overlays will be provided, along with an electronic list of traffic signs.

Participants who successfully complete the respective assessments will be issued with a Traffic Management Design card, clearly marked with either Open or Restricted.



To help explain the new assessment structure the following flow chart has been developed showing the potential paths through the Traffic Management Design training course.

To ensure equity in access to the new training assessment options, any participant who has undertaken Traffic Management Design training since August 2015, (and prior to the transition to *Open* and *Restricted* Assessment) and has not been successful in the assessment, will be sent an email offering access to the *Restricted* assessment. Participants who take up this offer will be given one month to complete the assessment. This process will incur a re-assessment cost, at the discretion of the Registered Training Organisation.

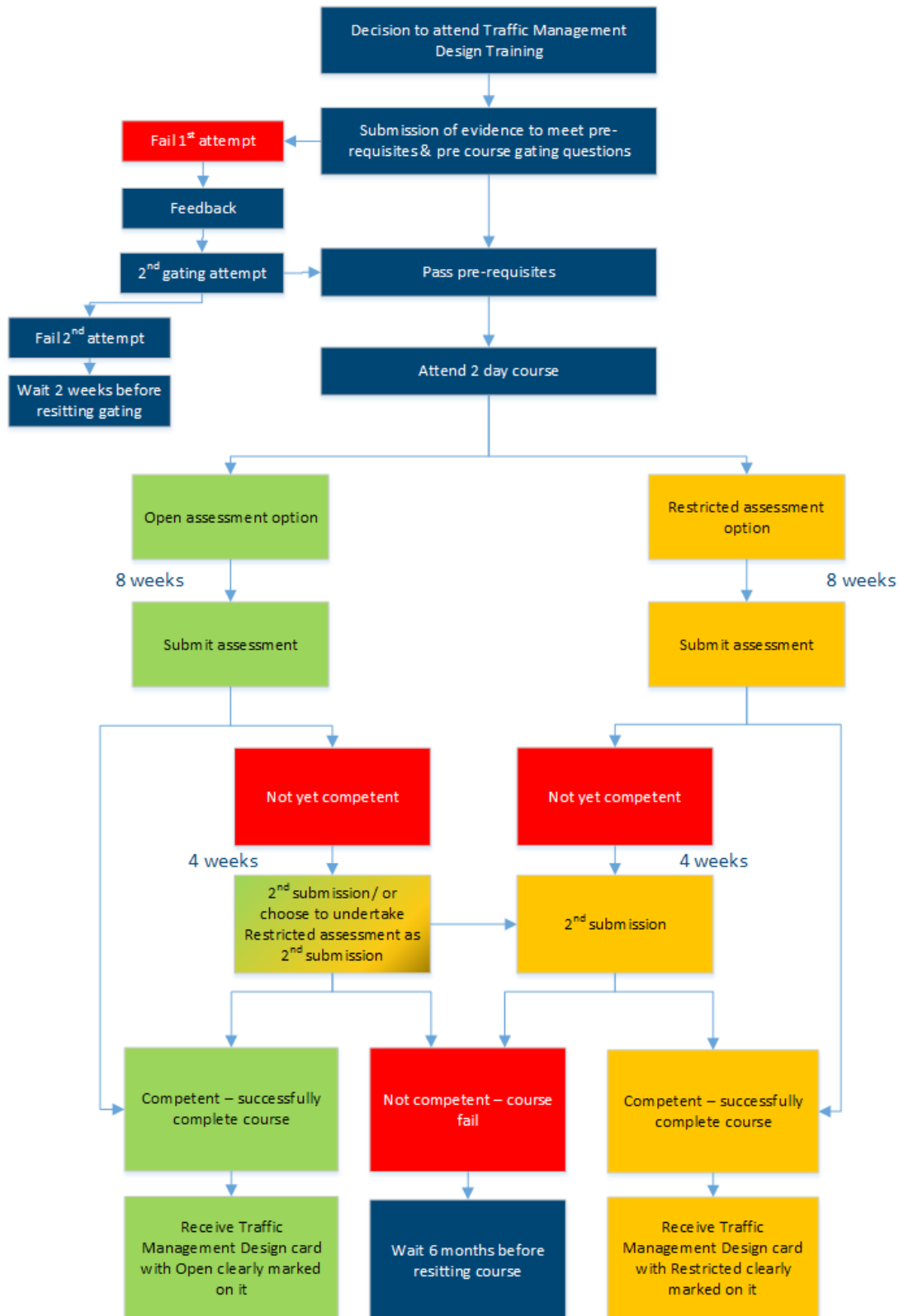
Any person who was successful in their Traffic Management Design assessment before the introduction of *Open* and *Restricted* assessment will receive a new card clearly marked '*Open*'.

To learn more about the process for undertaking *Open* and *Restricted* assessment, including submissions and timeframes, please consult the diagram opposite. For all other enquiries regarding Traffic Management Design training, please contact Coryn Hedges on (07) 3066 8646, or email coryn.j.hedges@tmr.qld.gov.au.

New Expression of Interest for TMD trainers

Ensuring there are sufficient numbers of TMD trainers available to industry is critical to delivering improved traffic management design outcomes. To support this, TMR has recently undertaken an EOI to pair qualified engineers with RTOs. It is anticipated that additional trainers will be approved and available to run the course from May 2016.

TMD Open and Restricted assessment options



Traffic Control Permits made easy

Transport and Main Roads is set to streamline the application process for Traffic Control Permits, with a new online application form scheduled for release in April.

The new, easy-to-use form is needed to replace old paper forms, reducing application times and improving consistency.

TMR has conducted a trial of the new form involving Energex, Altus Traffic and Evolution. Feedback to date has been very favourable, with several improvements made based on trial findings. TMR plans to release the new online form in parallel with the old paper-based application to ease the transition for customers.

Innovation working group

Emotive signage

Transport and Main Roads' work with Downer on emotive signage is progressing well, with Downer working to identify trial sites for the innovative signage. The planned trial aims to test the responsiveness of speed compliance to emotional 'triggers' in signage, comparing speed compliance when emotive signage is in use, to compliance with more traditional signage.

Portable traffic signals

TMR's drive to move traffic controller's out of harm's way continues, with trials of new lightweight portable traffic signals progressing well. Developed by Arrow Emergency Systems, the low-cost, remoted-controlled units are currently being trialled by Downer Mouchel on the North Coast.



Temporary Variable Speed Limit

The department has moved another step closer to safer and more efficient speed control at roadworks, with the operation procedure for temporary variable speed limit signs now undergoing a final risk assessment. The guideline and technical specification are due for release later this year.



Statewide update sessions a success

Transport and Main Roads delivered the last in its series of Traffic Management Update sessions recently, rounding off a 19,580km journey around the state.



The roadshow travelled the length and breadth of Queensland, including 34 sessions in 25 locations – a total of 136 hours presenting.

The four-hour awareness sessions were a great success, updating some 930 representatives from TMR, local council and industry on the changing direction of traffic management at roadworks, current road operation issues and workplace health and safety activities – with a particular focus on traffic management training.



The sessions were a valuable opportunity for the department, local government and industry to work together. The feedback helped identify a number of pain-points, and the department is now working to resolve these issues.

For more information

If you would like more information about the the department's Traffic Management Improvement at Roadworks project, or what is happening in the traffic management sector, please contact Transport and Main Roads by emailing Coryn Hedges on coryn.j.hedges@tmr.qld.gov.au.