

Traffic Management News



John Oppes, Acting Chief Engineer
Department of Transport and Main Roads

Thank you for reading the July edition of the Traffic Management Newsletter.

We have exciting updates to share with you in this edition, however I would first like to introduce myself. I officially took over the role as Acting Chief Engineer in April, when Julie Mitchell moved to her new position as Deputy Director-General for the Policy, Planning and Investment division within the department. I am honoured to be able to fill this spot while the permanent recruitment process is underway. I caught up with the Traffic Management Association of Australia last month to talk about why engineering is a passion for me. You can read the article [here](#) (see p. 45).

Last month, I was pleased to hear that we reached a milestone with **702 pass grades** being achieved in Traffic Management Design Training. This is great news for the industry, as feedback shows us that since introduction of the training there has been a demonstrable change in practice and the level of understanding about traffic management roles and risks in the civil construction industry.

I came across an interesting report published by the ABC on road death statistics since 1989. As well as thought-provoking visual representations of data, the report draws some valuable conclusions, including the following:

'Sweeping changes to road safety have cut road deaths by two-thirds since 1970, the worst year for

road deaths. Per capita, Australians are nearly seven times less likely to die from road injury now than in 1970, even though there are four times more cars on the roads. Safer road and vehicle design, lower speed limits, mandatory seat belts, child restraints and helmets, tougher drink and drug driving penalties and improved post-crash response, among other measures, have all contributed to the sharp decline in road deaths.'

These types of reports give me hope that we can continue to create change through the work we do. You can read the whole report [here](#).

A big change this month was the **1 July update** to the **way we use portable traffic control devices**. This is another strategy we are utilising to improve safety on the roads, by taking our traffic controllers out of harm's way where possible.

In this edition we take a look at the new eLearn program set to be rolled out later this month, which will improve the efficiency of the **Event Traffic Marshal assessment process**.

Harmonisation is a priority for the department, and as such, we caught up with Project Manager Dan Sullivan to hear the latest from Austroads about the **National Safety at Road Worksites** project.

Finally, we look at a trial we undertook in conjunction with DM Roads of **illuminated merge tapers** at road work sites to determine how they would impact driver lane occupancy behaviour.

What's in this edition?

- Changes to Portable Traffic Control Devices from 1 July 2018
- New ETM eLearn system
- Update on the Austroads Safety at Road Worksites Project
- Illuminated merge taper trial

Traffic management safety news

At the Department of Transport and Main Roads, we continue to work on safety initiatives to develop tools which improve practices and increase driver awareness around roadwork sites, or other locations where people might be working around roads. Read on to find out more about some of these projects and tools.

Changes to Portable Traffic Control Devices

The department is committed to improving the safety of road users and all road workers at our roadwork sites. As part of this commitment the department has worked with industry to investigate and implement options to improve safety for traffic controllers.

Portable traffic control devices (PTCD) were identified and adopted as a means of allowing traffic controllers to perform their roles at a safe distance from traffic in high risk environments. These devices include Types 1 and 2 Portable Traffic Signal Systems (PTSS) and manually controlled boom barriers.

From 1 July 2018, there will be an incremental change to the requirements for the use of PTCD, to further ensure that traffic controllers using STOP/SLOW bats are rarely deployed in high risk situations.

Feedback on PTCD implementation

The department recently completed a 12 month review of the use and effectiveness of PTCD. Experience with the use of these devices was provided by industry (Traffic Management Association of Australia members) and RoadTek.

It was concluded that while PTCD are effective in controlling traffic, they also significantly reduce the traffic controller's exposure to risk by enabling traffic control from a safe location. A key finding was that traffic controllers were operating PTCD from unsafe locations. A recommendation was made to provide guidance about the safe location of the traffic controller while operating the PTCD.

What's changing?

Currently, PTCD should be used in lieu of traffic controllers on all roads with an annual average daily

traffic of over 1000 vehicles per day and a speed limit of 90 km/h or greater.

As of 1 July 2018, this requirement was broadened to encompass roads with an annual average daily traffic of over 1000 vehicles per day and a speed limit of 80 km/h or greater. (Annual average daily traffic is the total vehicle count in both directions of travel per day.)

A fact sheet (Changes to Portable Traffic Control Devices) has been developed to provide you with more information about these changes, as well as other key recommendations being made as part of this review.

The fact sheet can be accessed via: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Technical-standards-publications/Manual-of-uniform-traffic-control-devices/Fact-sheets-for-Works-on-Roads>

If you have any queries about these changes, please email trafficengineering.support@tmr.qld.gov.au



Example of TC operating PTCD from an appropriate location

Quick Stats

Traffic Management Design Training (as at June 2018)

1600*
have undertaken
the training

702
have obtained a
passing grade

35
are currently being
assessed

* 454 have chosen not to submit their assessment

Projects and initiatives

There are a number of exciting projects and initiatives underway, which the department is excited to champion and collaborate on with a number of other organisations.

New Event Traffic Marshal eLearn System

The Event Traffic Marshal (ETM) scheme was introduced in August 2017 as an alternative low-cost option for traffic control in “low speed / low risk” environments around special events. The scheme was particularly designed to cater for sporting and community events, such as fetes, festivals, marathons, fun runs/walks and Anzac Day parades, where volunteers are already commonly engaged to assist with the running of the event.

The ETM role is only an alternative option at these special events in low risk situations where ETMs have been specified on the Traffic Guidance Scheme (TGS) for the event, and where accredited traffic controllers are not required.

Any event volunteer who wishes to be engaged as an ETM must have successfully completed a competency assessment as a prerequisite.

Since introduction of the ETM scheme, a manual assessment process has been in place. This required the applicant to manually download and complete the assessment form, scan it, then email it to the department's ETM mailbox for assessment. The answers are reviewed and a competency certificate is sent back if an assessment score of 100% is achieved.

New ETM eLearn Program

The department has been busy developing a new ETM eLearn program which will soon be released to the public for online access.

The eLearn program provides a streamlined and convenient way for event volunteers to obtain knowledge and skills in basic traffic control for special events and undertake the assessment online. The new portal will make it easier and faster for applicants to complete the ETM assessment.

(The current training materials and assessment forms will remain available for people who are unable to access the portal.)

There are two parts to the ETM eLearn program:

Part 1: ETM eligibility check

The eligibility check is a short set of questions that participants MUST complete before gaining access to Part 2 of the program.

This eligibility check is designed to ensure that participants are aware of the physical fitness and suitability requirements for the role.

Part 2: eLearn course content and assessment

A training course covering the skills and knowledge to carry out traffic control as an Event Traffic Marshal at special events.

A link to the portal will be available via the existing Event Traffic Marshals page on the TMR website: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Community-and-environment/Planning-and-development/Other-matters-requiring-approval/Traffic-management-at-special-events/Event-Traffic-Marshals>



Do you have a question or feedback about this newsletter?
Please email trafficengineering.support@tmr.qld.gov.au

Safety at Road Worksites National Project - An update from Austroads

The Austroads Safety at Road Worksites project has been progressing rapidly over recent months, and we are now at the point where a number of guide parts of the Safety at Road Worksites Project are nearly ready to be published. Recently, the Austroads Board approved a change in name for the guidance that will be published. The title for the Austroads publication will now be **Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management (CoPTTM)**.

This title aligns with that of the New Zealand document and more accurately reflects the role of the publication. In addition, the Austroads Board announced a proposed implementation time frame, following publication, of 12 months, noting that the responsibility for implementation rests with State and Territory jurisdictions. The current progress for each part of the CoPTTM is detailed as shown below.

Part	Name	Status
1	Introduction	Commenced
2	Traffic Management Planning	Industry Consultation completed - Working Group to review in May / June 2018 prior to final drafting
3	Traffic Management Devices	Tender to be released in late May 2019 to develop this document
4	Static Work Sites	In final documentation - due for publication in July 2018
5	Mobile Work Sites	In final documentation - due for publication in July 2018
6	Short Term Low Impact Works	In final documentation - due for publication in July 2018
7	Guide for Field Staff	Industry Consultation to commence in July 2018
8	Traffic Controller Instructions	Industry Consultation completed - Working Group to review in May / June 2018 prior to final drafting
9	Processes and Procedures	Commenced
10	Sample Layouts	Tender to be released in late May 2019 to develop this document
11	Supporting Guidance	Commenced

Nationally Harmonised Training

The preferred new structure for the training for all practitioners is detailed below.

Role	Road Category	Skills Set
Road Labourer	Category 1, 2, & 3	Road Labourer – includes technical element regarding working in proximity to traffic, WHS considerations and communication
Traffic Controller	Category 1	Traffic Controller - much the same as the current training
	Category 2	Traffic Controller - requirements for working on multi-lane roads
Implementer of a TGS	Category 1	Implementer of a Traffic Guidance Scheme Risk Training
	Category 2	Category 1 plus additional technical skills, supervisor skills
	Category 3	Category 1 plus specialist motorway training
Design & Develop the TMP and TGS	Category 1	Develop TMP & TGS, Risk Training (similar to Qld Restricted)
	Category 2	Category 1 plus more complex arrangements (similar to Qld Open)
	Category 3	Category 2 plus specialist motorway training

Did you know...

PDFs of all Austroads Guides can be now downloaded at no charge. Most hard copies have been discontinued. This is in preparation for the new Austroads website, which is due to be launched at the end of August and will include online versions of the guides.

Staying in the loop

If you want to stay informed about Austroads projects, tenders, and publications, you can register by clicking the following link <http://www.austroads.com.au/road-operations/network-operations/safety-at-road-worksites> and entering your details into the 'Sign up for project alerts' section.

Illuminated Merge Taper Trial

The department continues to look for new technologies and devices which improve safety and efficiency on our roads. Last year, we worked with DM Roads to undertake a trial of illuminated merge tapers to determine how they would impact driver lane occupancy behaviour.

The device used in the trial was the Cone Lite Synchro, a LED flashing lamp which is attached to the top of traffic cones to illuminate the merge taper, as shown in the images. The device was tested over 10 nights at three locations, across a range of roads with different permanent posted speed environments.

The results of the trial showed an identified shift in driver lane occupancy behaviour.



The Cone Lite Synchro in action at a number of trial road works sites.
Images provided by DM Roads

What's next?

There's always something exciting happening in traffic management. Here is a snapshot of what's around the corner.

Inappropriate use of Traffic Management Design Cards: New Fact Sheet coming soon

Recently, the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (BPEQ) identified cases of inappropriate use of Registered Professional Engineers of Queensland (RPEQ) card numbers. TM Design professionals are responsible for any design decisions and plans that are issued under their traffic management design card number, and as such it is important that these credentials are protected. In the near future, the department will issue a fact sheet for TM design professionals to provide guidance on how to reduce their risk of someone inappropriately using their TM design credentials.

Updated version of Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Part 3 and supplement to be released in July

The MUTCD Part 3 and associated supplement will be published on 31 July as part of the department's upcoming technical document release cycle. Your input during the consultation process was greatly appreciated and has been incorporated wherever possible. You can find the MUTCD on the department's website via: <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/business-industry/Technical-standards-publications/Manual-of-uniform-traffic-control-devices>

Did you know that you can sign up to be notified whenever certain technical publications are updated? Simply click the 'subscribe to receive email alerts' link on [this page](#), then select the relevant publications.

Harmonisation in Queensland

- Work continues on the future Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management (CoPTTM).
- Work on the traffic management training framework has commenced
- Discussions around registration schemes for TM practitioners and a national pre-qualification scheme for TM Providers have begun.
- The department intends to run an initial consultation session with industry and local government representatives in late August 2018. This consultation will inform Queensland's response to the national harmonisation of traffic management practice outcomes.

Here are some of the ways you can be involved:

- Stay connected to your industry association.
- Provide your feedback when requested. We value your thoughts!
- Contact the Traffic Management at Roadworks Project Team via TMHarmonisation@tmr.qld.gov.au
- Contact the Austroads Safety at Road Worksites Project Manager (Dan Sullivan) via dan.sullivan@solutionsintransport.com.au