

Impact Analysis Statement

Summary IAS

Details

Lead department	Department of Transport and Main Roads
Name of the proposal	Cessation of the Experienced Driver Recognition Country Category
Submission type	Summary IAS
Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument	<i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021</i> <i>Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018</i>
Date of issue	January 2026

Proposal type	Details								
Minor and machinery in nature	<p>This proposal is machinery in nature and consequential to Austroads making changes to the Recognised Country Scheme (RCS). The RCS has been in place in Australia for nearly 20 years, providing a streamlined conversion process for car and motorcycle licence holders from certain countries that have similarly rigorous licensing frameworks to Australia. The scheme is administered by Austroads. Previously, there were two distinct administrative arrangements under the RCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognised country - experienced driver recognition country (EDRC) <p>In October 2024, Austroads launched a revised RCS. As part of the changes to the scheme, the EDRC arrangements were retired from 1 May 2025.</p> <p>Under the EDRC arrangements, a person who held, or had held in the last 5 years, a driver licence from one of the relevant countries that corresponds with a class C, RE or R licence, was not required to pass a road rules test or practical driving test to obtain a Queensland driver licence, provided they were at least 25 years old. Applicants were also not required to hold a competency declaration to transfer to a Queensland RE learner licence, RE licence or R licence.</p> <p>As part of the revision to the RCS, the EDRC arrangements were discontinued by Austroads from 1 May 2025. The change was administratively implemented in Queensland on 29 November 2025.</p> <p>There are 16 EDRCs that account for approximately 5 per cent of overseas licence transfers in Queensland (note: not all of these transfers necessarily rely on the EDRC arrangements – for example, if the licence holder is under the age of 25).</p> <p>The sixteen EDRC countries are:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Bulgaria</td> <td>Poland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cyprus</td> <td>South Korea</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Czech Republic</td> <td>Romania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estonia</td> <td>Serbia</td> </tr> </table>	Bulgaria	Poland	Cyprus	South Korea	Czech Republic	Romania	Estonia	Serbia
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	<p>Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) Hungary Latvia Lithuania</p>	<p>Slovakia Slovenia South Africa (Republic of) Taiwan</p>
	<p>As part of the revised RCS, a number of EDRC countries have applied for full 'recognised' status. These include:</p>	
	<p>Estonia Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China) Latvia (C Class only) Lithuania</p>	<p>Serbia (C Class only) South Korea (C Class only) Taiwan</p>
	<p>To address these Austroads changes the proposal removes references to EDRCs from Queensland subordinate legislation. Amendments to the <i>Transport Operations (Road Use Management–Driver Licensing) Regulation 2021</i> and the <i>Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2018</i> are required. These amendments are machinery in nature and will bring Queensland into alignment with the other states and territories that have ceased/are ceasing to recognise EDRC countries following removal of the EDRC category by Austroads.</p>	
	<p>These amendments will align Queensland legislation with Austroads-led changes to the arrangements for recognised countries.</p>	
	<p>The Royal Automobile Club of Queensland was consulted regarding these amendments and did not raise any concerns with the proposal.</p>	

Signed



Sally Stannard
Director-General
Department of Transport and Main Roads



Brent Mickelberg MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Date: 19 / 1 / 2026

Date: 22 / 1 / 2026