

Attempts to delay RVSA Legislation Disappointing & Frustrating



RVMAP™

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An Amendment Bill to delay the commencement date of the Road Vehicle Standards Bill (RVSA) introduced into Parliament last week is short-sighted and potentially puts lives at risk, says Caravan Industry Association of Australia CEO, Stuart Lamont.

“Consumer safety is paramount in what should be one of the most rewarding activities any Australian undertakes in their lifetime, and currently the protection which should be rightly available to them is failing them,” Mr Lamont said.

The existing system of getting Towable Recreational Vehicles onto the road is by the Government’s own admission flawed, with there being no current enforceable obligation for trailer manufacturers (including caravans and camper trailers) to be visible to the vehicle safety standards regulator, and when non-compliance is detected, the current Motor Vehicle Standards Act (MVSA) lacks the appropriate enforcement alternatives.

The Association has lobbied hard for the introduction of the Road Vehicle Standards Act which is due to take effect on 10 December 2019, and believes the many industry businesses interested in safe and compliant product would be ready by this deadline with the necessary administrative changes needed to comply, subject to the Federal Department having their processes and IT systems in place for this December date.

“To say we are extremely disappointed and frustrated is an understatement,” Mr Lamont went on to say.

“Any further delay in the RVSA legislation will continue to provide a mechanism whereby unsafe or non-compliant product could be registered without fear of retribution, with Australian consumers and those genuine industry businesses committed to doing the right thing deserving better protection than what they are receiving from the current MVSA legislation.”

Caravan Industry Association of Australia has expressed their strong opposition to any delays but is finding little support from other national automotive and transport industry associations who almost all support a delay to the legislation, citing their members will not be ready.

We will be meeting the Deputy Prime Minister in two weeks along with members of the Department and the Opposition and will continue to work with our member state associations in informing industry businesses of what is necessary to comply with the upcoming legislation.

“As an industry, we should not accept that any delay through the legislative process is a reason not to continue to be prepared for its introduction. The new RVSA imposes strong penalties attached to non-compliance, and we will be doing whatever possible to ensure those genuine businesses within the industry looking to do the right thing are advantaged over those businesses looking to flaunt the system,” Mr Lamont concluded.

Further information will be supplied when it comes to hand.



Working collaboratively with member State Associations on matters that affect the Caravan and Camping Industry

