

Update on the Austroads proposed implementation plan for the Austroads Safety Hardware Training & Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) initiative

Austroads has recently liaised with Transport and Main Roads regarding the progress of the proposed rollout plan for the Austroads Safety Hardware Training & Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) initiative.

The ASHTAS initiative is a training and accreditation program to ensure all installers and operatives in the workforce understand how to correctly install and maintain road safety barriers following the manufacturers specifications and best practices. This standardised training accreditation scheme is another step towards a national approach to provide improved support to our workforce and making our roads safer.

Austroads members (including Transport and Main Roads) have agreed in principle to adopt the scheme.

The ASHTAS implementation plan

The ASHTAS implementation plan comprises both national and local jurisdictional dimensions, consisting of three stages:

1. Implementation (the current stage) – rollout of the training program to the market. Austroads intends to formally notify Industry and stakeholders outlining and advising the launch of the ASHTAS scheme and associated information on role of approved training providers etc. This notification is intended in September 2022.
2. Transition – the period in which individuals undertake training and start to become available as ASHTAS trained personnel. The period of transition is dependent on a number of factors both national and local. Transport and Main Roads will consult with stakeholders to ensure we set a ‘transition period’ that will allow for the required updates to MRTS14 *Road Furniture*, and for sufficient trained and accredited individuals to be available internally and to service the market.
3. Operations – post transition in which local jurisdictions mandate ASHTAS accreditation for all operatives and installers involved in barrier installation and maintenance.

Transport and Main Road's implementation plan

We will soon be receiving more information about the details of the approved training providers and associated processes. Training providers will also inform on their training program costs and its accessibility for both Transport and Main Roads staff and industry. We will use this information to identify the transitional impacts specifically for Queensland.

If you have any questions, please contact the Standards, Research and Training Team by email at Standards_Research_and_Training@tmr.qld.gov.au.