

Australian Capital Territory

# **Road Transport (General) Application of Road Transport Legislation (NBMS Rally Test Day) Declaration 2025 (No 1)**

## **Disallowable instrument DI2025–293**

made under the

*Road Transport (General) Act 1999, section 13 (Power to exclude vehicles, persons or animals from road transport legislation)*

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

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Section 13 (1) of the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999* (the Act) provides that the Minister may declare that the road transport legislation, or a provision of the road transport legislation, does not apply to a vehicle, person or animal in a place or circumstance stated in the declaration. Subsection 13 (3) of the Act makes such a declaration a disallowable instrument.

This declaration has been prepared to accommodate the NBMS Rally Test Day 2025 (the event). The event has been scheduled to commence on 20 November 2025 but may need to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather. Accordingly, the instrument expires on 18 December 2025, which allows time for organisers to reschedule the event if required.

This instrument provides that certain parts of the road transport legislation do not apply to a designated vehicle or the driver of a designated vehicle while participating in a ‘special stage’ of the event while a special stage is ‘active’. The special stage is conducted in a controlled environment that are closed to non-entrants.

The declaration is a disallowable instrument. Under section 64 of the *Legislation Act 2001*, the disallowable instrument must be presented to the Legislative Assembly within 6 sitting days after its notification.

## **Human rights implications**

During the development of this instrument, due regard was given to its effect and the operation of the event in relation to its compatibility with human rights as set out in the *Human Rights Act 2004* (HRA).

Section 28 of the HRA provides that human rights may be subject only to reasonable limits set by laws that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Section 28 (2) of the HRA provides that, in deciding whether a limit on a human right is reasonable, all relevant factors must be considered, including:

- a) the nature of the right affected
- b) the importance of the limitation
- c) the nature and extent of the limitation
- d) the relationship between the limitation and its purpose
- e) any less restrictive means reasonably available to achieve the purpose the limitation seeks to achieve.

Section 13 of the HRA provides a right for people to move freely within the ACT.

The declarations in this instrument do not directly restrict a person's freedom of movement within the Territory; however, the operation of the event in closing parts of the forest in which the event will be conducted to members of the public will restrict the free movement of people in that area of the Territory during the event. As parts of the road transport legislation are being disapplied for the event to operate as intended, vehicles will be travelling in parts of the forest in excess of the usual speed limits and in a manner not consistent with the road rules. As such, the restriction on the free movement of people in those parts of the forest at those times is considered reasonable and proportionate to ensure safety of non-participants and represents the least restrictive approach that enables the event to proceed.

## Section notes

**Sections 1 and 2** of the instrument are formal provisions dealing with the name and commencement of the instrument.

**Section 3** provides that the *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019* does not apply to a designated vehicle, or a motor vehicle involved in a motor accident with a designated vehicle, while being used to participate in a ‘special stage’ of the event for any period beginning on an event official declaring the special stage ‘active’ for a testing session, media event, corporate event day or rally and ending on an event official declaring the ‘special stage’ ‘inactive’. Under the current Administrative Arrangements, this declaration is the responsibility of the Minister for Finance.

The event is held under the auspices of Motorsport Australia. A Certificate reflecting currency of the policy up to 30 September 2026 provides up to \$100 million of public liability cover for any one occurrence, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of the insurance policy. However, this policy does not operate where *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019* insurance is in force, except where specifically excluded by law. For this reason, the *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019* does not apply in the circumstances specified in the instrument.

**Section 4** provides that various other provisions of the road transport legislation dealing with vehicle registration and vehicle standards, driver licensing and road rules, do not apply to a designated vehicle or the driver of a designated vehicle while participating in a ‘special stage’ of the event beginning on an event official declaring that a special stage is ‘active’ and ending on an event official declaring the stage ‘inactive’. In practice, an event official may declare an event stage to be ‘active’ in a variety of ways, for example by waving a flag, or making a hand signal, or using signal lights. The definition of designated vehicle extends to official or promotional vehicles being used for official purposes during the event. Under the current Administrative Arrangements, this declaration is the responsibility of the Minister for City and Government Services.

**Section 5** contains definitions for terms used in the instrument.

**Section 6** provides that the declaration expires at 5:00pm on 18 December 2025. This provides for an additional period of four weeks following the scheduled event date to cover circumstances where the event needs to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather.

Schedule 1 provides a map that defines the road or road related areas where the instrument has effect.