



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

ROAD VEHICLE STANDARDS

GUIDANCE NOTE

Applying to continue supply of a vehicle covered by an opted-in vehicle type approval

This guidance note explains how to apply for a new vehicle type approval when an opted-in vehicle type approval is expiring or has expired. It also identifies changes to ROVER functionality that will be made available to support the process.

The *Road Vehicle Standards (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2018* allowed holders of certain approvals granted under the former *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* to apply for an 'opted-in' vehicle type approval under the *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018*. These approvals were granted for 5 years and will expire in 2026.

You must apply for and be granted a new vehicle type approval to continue the provision of a vehicle type that is currently covered by an opted in approval.

Note: Information explaining the department's general approach to handling expiring or expired approvals, including why the Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation does not treat new applications in these circumstances as 'renewals', is provided in the [Guide to reapplying for an expiring or expired approval](#).

How do I know if I hold an opted-in vehicle type approval?

Opted-in vehicle type approvals have a numbering series between VTA-000001 and VTA-059999 (inclusive) and expire between 1 July and 31 December 2026. You can find your approval number and expiration date on the first page of your approval notice.

Applying for a new vehicle type approval

Please note that the [Guide to reapplying for an expiring or expired approval](#) sets out the considerations the department will apply when determining whether a vehicle type can be treated as an existing model for Australian Design Rule (ADR) applicability purposes.

You will need to complete a new vehicle type approval application form in ROVER and provide all the required supporting information. Outlined below are instructions on 3 additional steps you will need to make in the application.

Future commencement date

On the **Approval details page**, leave the future commencement date field blank (see Figure 1). Please do not specify a future commencement date. If your application is successful, your new vehicle type approval will commence on the day that the department grants the approval.

Figure 1. Approval details page

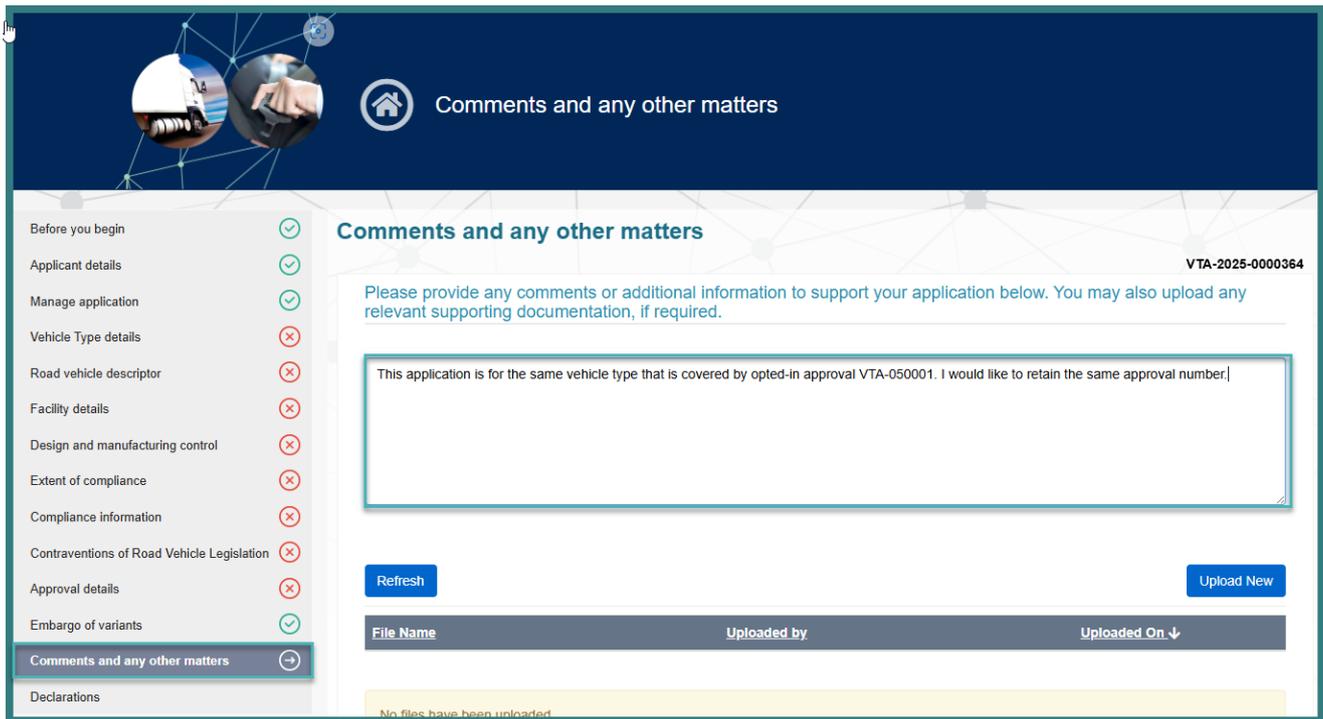
The screenshot shows the 'Approval details' page in the ROVER system. The page has a dark blue header with a home icon and the text 'Approval details'. Below the header is a navigation menu on the left with the following items: 'Before you begin' (checked), 'Applicant details' (checked), 'Manage application' (checked), 'Vehicle Type details' (unchecked), 'Road vehicle descriptor' (unchecked), 'Facility details' (unchecked), 'Design and manufacturing control' (unchecked), 'Extent of compliance' (unchecked), 'Compliance information' (unchecked), 'Contraventions of Road Vehicle Legislation' (unchecked), 'Approval details' (selected), 'Embargo of variants', 'Comments and any other matters', and 'Declarations'. The main content area is titled 'Approval details' and includes a 'Published contact details' section with a warning message: 'The approval holder's contact details will be published on the department's website with the approval, if granted.' Below this are input fields for 'Name of contact person', 'Email Address', 'Phone', and 'Website'. Below these is a 'Commencement of approval' section with a warning message: 'You may specify the commencement date of this approval if it is granted. If your specified commencement date is before the decision date to grant you an approval, the commencement date for the approval will be the decision date.' Below this is a date input field.

Opted in approval number and number retention

On the **Comments and any other matters** page, provide the opted-in approval number and confirm if you wish to retain the same number as the opted-in approval (see Figure 2).

For example: This application is for the same vehicle type that is covered by opted-in approval VTA-050001. I would like to retain the same approval number.

Figure 2. Comments and any other matters page



Before you begin ✓

Applicant details ✓

Manage application ✓

Vehicle Type details ✗

Road vehicle descriptor ✗

Facility details ✗

Design and manufacturing control ✗

Extent of compliance ✗

Compliance information ✗

Contraventions of Road Vehicle Legislation ✗

Approval details ✗

Embargo of variants ✓

Comments and any other matters →

Declarations

Comments and any other matters

VTA-2025-0000364

Please provide any comments or additional information to support your application below. You may also upload any relevant supporting documentation, if required.

This application is for the same vehicle type that is covered by opted-in approval VTA-050001. I would like to retain the same approval number.

Refresh Upload New

| File Name | Uploaded by | Uploaded On ↓ |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| No files have been uploaded. | | |

A new declaration

On the **Declaration page**, you will need to read and acknowledge the following declaration:

I/I on behalf of the applicant, declare that:

- This application is seeking an approval for a type of vehicle covered by an expiring or expired opted-in vehicle type approval granted under item 5 of Schedule 3 of the *Road Vehicle Standards (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2018*;
- I have provided the approval number for the type of vehicle covered by the opted-in vehicle type approval at the comments and any other matters page of the application;
- I request the department revoke the identified opted-in vehicle type approval (if it remains in force) on the day the Secretary decides to grant a new road vehicle type approval, should this application be successful.

The declaration confirms you are seeking a new approval for a vehicle type covered by the identified opted-in approval and that you agree to the revocation of the opted-in approval (if it remains in force) on the day you are granted approval.

Revocation is necessary to ensure that you only have one approval in force at any time for the one vehicle type.

When will ROVER functionality be available to support these applications?

You may apply for a new vehicle type approval at any time. However, the department will be deploying ROVER application form changes (referred to above) in the first quarter of 2026. These will facilitate you providing the information necessary for the department to consider whether your vehicle is an existing model for ADR applicability purposes and to retain an opted-in approval number (where required).

Please make a business decision on when to apply. If you wish to maximise the available opted-in approval time, you could apply for a new approval closer to the expiry of your opted-in approval.

Note: The department has 60 business days to decide an application for a vehicle type approval.

Further information

For further information, please visit [Vehicles | Department's website](#) or submit an online enquiry via the [Contact us—RVS | Department's website page](#).

Quick links

- [Welcome to ROVER](#)
- [Road Vehicle Standards legislation | Department's website](#)
- [Guide to reapplying for an expiring or expired approval](#)

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