



MTAA RESPONSE TO:

# ABS OSCA 2027 Update Consultation

April 2026

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# Introduction

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the OSCA 2027 review.

MTAA represents the automotive retail, service and repair sector across Australia, including businesses responsible for maintaining and repairing the national vehicle fleet. This workforce is undergoing significant change, driven by rapid advancements in vehicle technology, including electrification, increased use of software and electronics, and the integration of advanced safety systems.

These changes have materially altered the skills and capabilities required of automotive technicians. However, current OSCA task descriptions remain largely focused on mechanical systems and do not adequately reflect the role of diagnostics, software and system-level capability in modern vehicle servicing.

This submission focuses on updating task descriptions for key automotive occupations to ensure OSCA more accurately reflects current industry practice. Improving the accuracy of these classifications is critical to supporting workforce planning, training alignment and the development of effective policy responses across the sector.

## Question 1: Are there any occupations in OSCA that are not accurately described?

Yes.

MTAA considers that the following occupations are not fully or accurately described, as current task lists do not reflect the increasing role of electronics, software, diagnostics and safety system calibration in modern vehicles:

- 351434 Electric Vehicle Technician
- 351131 Automotive Technician (General)
- 351433 Diesel Technician

MTAA does not propose changes to occupation titles, definitions or skill levels. However, main tasks require updating to reflect current industry practice.

### **351434 Electric Vehicle Technician**

#### **Title**

Electric Vehicle Technician

#### **Alternative titles**

EV Technician; Hybrid Vehicle Technician; High Voltage Technician

**Definition**

No change proposed.

**Skill level**

No change proposed (Skill Level 3)

**Specialisations**

No change proposed.

**Licensing/registration**

No change proposed.

**Main tasks – inaccuracies or missing tasks**

Current tasks are focused on component-level servicing (e.g. batteries, motors, cooling systems) and do not fully reflect system-level diagnostics and software integration.

MTAA proposes the following additional tasks:

- Uses advanced diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot complex electrical, electronic and system-level faults across vehicle systems
- Updates vehicle software and calibrates electronic safety and control systems in accordance with manufacturer specifications

**Supporting evidence**

MTAA industry workforce survey data indicates persistent skills shortages across automotive trades, with employers reporting increasing difficulty recruiting technicians with diagnostic and electronic capability.

Job vacancy data and OEM job descriptions consistently require experience with diagnostic platforms, software updates and system calibration for electric and hybrid vehicles.

**Impact of inaccurate description**

If not updated, the occupation will under-represent the technical capability required, limiting the accuracy of workforce data and affecting training, migration settings and safety capability across the sector.

**351131 Automotive Technician (General)****Title**

Automotive Technician (General)

**Alternative titles**

Motor Mechanic; Light Vehicle Technician

**Definition**

No change proposed.

**Skill level**

No change proposed (Skill Level 3)

**Specialisations**

No change proposed.

**Licensing/registration**

No change proposed.

**Main tasks – inaccuracies or missing tasks**

Current tasks are heavily weighted toward mechanical systems and petrol engines and do not reflect the integration of electronic systems, software and safety technologies.

MTAA proposes the following additional tasks:

- Diagnoses and repairs faults in electronic, computer-controlled and integrated vehicle systems
- Uses advanced diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot complex electrical, electronic and system-level faults
- Updates vehicle software and calibrates electronic safety systems, including advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS)
- Services hybrid and low-voltage electrified vehicle systems where fitted

**Supporting evidence**

MTAA survey data shows that a high proportion of businesses report difficulty recruiting suitably qualified technicians, particularly where advanced diagnostic and electronic skills are required.

Job advertisements increasingly specify experience with scan tools, ADAS calibration and hybrid systems as baseline requirements.

**Impact of inaccurate description**

The current description understates the scope and complexity of the occupation, resulting in misalignment between training, workforce planning and industry needs.

**351433 Diesel Technician****Title**

Diesel Technician

**Alternative titles**

Diesel Mechanic; Heavy Vehicle Technician

**Definition**

No change proposed.

### **Skill level**

No change proposed (Skill Level 3)

### **Specialisations**

No change proposed.

### **Licensing/registration**

No change proposed.

### **Main tasks – inaccuracies or missing tasks**

Current tasks focus on mechanical systems and diesel engines and do not fully reflect the increasing role of electronics, software and alternative drivetrains in heavy vehicles.

MTAA proposes the following additional tasks:

- Diagnoses and repairs faults in electronically controlled and software-enabled heavy vehicle systems
- Uses advanced diagnostic equipment to troubleshoot complex electrical and electronic faults across vehicle systems
- Updates vehicle software and calibrates electronic safety and control systems in accordance with manufacturer specifications

### **Supporting evidence**

MTAA workforce survey data highlights ongoing shortages in heavy vehicle technicians, with employers reporting increasing skill requirements associated with electronic diagnostics and system integration.

Industry workforce planning documents and job advertisements indicate growing demand for technicians capable of working with electronically controlled and low-emissions heavy vehicle systems.

### **Impact of inaccurate description**

The current description does not adequately capture emerging skill requirements in heavy vehicle servicing, limiting visibility of workforce demand and affecting policy and training responses.

## **Question 2: Are there any occupations that should be separately identified with a unique code in OSCA?**

At this stage, MTAA does not propose the creation of new standalone occupations.

While new areas of specialisation are emerging, including:

- Advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) calibration
- Electric and hybrid vehicle servicing
- Hydrogen and alternative fuel vehicle systems

MTAA considers that, at present, these functions are appropriately captured as specialisations or expanded task sets within existing occupations, provided task descriptions are updated as proposed.

MTAA recommends that OSCA continue to monitor these areas as the workforce evolves. As adoption of new vehicle technologies increases, there may be a future case for more distinct occupational classifications.

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