

## ACT window tint laws lighten up

Car owners in the ACT now have greater flexibility when tinting their car windows.

In December 2017, the ACT government relaxed the regulations for the darkness of a passenger vehicle's windows behind the driver, which includes the rear window. These can now be tinted by after-market professionals to 20% visible light transmission (VLT), instead of the previous 35% VLT limit.

VLT measures the amount of light coming through the glass. The lower the VLT percentage, the darker the window. For the sake of safety, each State and Territory sets a VLT limit on how dark car windows can be tinted. In 2016 a review by the National Transport Commission (NTC) recommended windows rear of the driver be allowed a 20% VLT. The new ACT regulation reflects the NTC position.

President of the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ), Ally Cronan, comments, "Car owners usually want the darkest legal finish when getting their windows tinted. The darker the film the greater the reduction in daytime glare and often the higher the heat rejection. In many cars, passengers sitting in the back seat are children, so allowing darker film on side and rear windows in the back seat often means that kids can benefit from less glare and more comfort afforded by the film."

When it comes to getting car windows tinted, what's always been confusing is the glaring disparity between the acceptable darkness of factory tinted glass in new cars and after-market window film. Federal law permits dark privacy glass on new vehicle windows, yet tinters are prohibited by State or Territory law from applying that same darkness of film to existing vehicles.

Ally Cronan explains, "In other words, your mate can buy a new car with dark windows – but you're not allowed to have the windows of your old car tinted to match theirs. This new VLT regulation in the ACT helps to close the gap between privacy glass and after-market film, which is great news for both motorists and window film installers."

Car owners should keep in mind the VLT limit for the front seat side windows remain 35%. Window film is never allowed on the greater part of the windscreen, even if it's optically clear. Also, when window film is applied to privacy glass, the combined VLT of the glass plus film must be considered. If the privacy glass (without film) is already close to 35% or 20% VLT, film of any kind should not be applied.

Ally adds, "It pays to use a credible window film installer who is aware of and abides by the law, especially in light of these changes. Always choose a WFAANZ member as they follow a code of practice and can recommend the best window film for your particular needs."

For more information or to find an auto film installer please visit the WFAANZ website [www.wfaanz.org.au](http://www.wfaanz.org.au).

**...ENDS...**

For further information please contact:

Ally Cronan

WFAANZ President

02 9401 0222

0413 626 365

[info@wfaanz.org.au](mailto:info@wfaanz.org.au)