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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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NHVR Sets Up Confidential Reporting Line

Adapted from advice, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 2 July, 2018

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has set up a new confidential reporting line.

According to the NHVR, the aim of the new line is so that heavy vehicle drivers and supply chain employees can report potential safety breaches relating to heavy vehicle transport activities.

NHVR Director Safety Standards, Greg Fill, said that heavy vehicle safety concerns can be received and addressed, with the NHVR deciding what action is to be taken.

“The confidential reporting line will protect the identity of the reporting individual throughout all stages of the process,” Mr Fill said.

Mr Fill said that under the Heavy Vehicle National Law everyone has a responsibility to prevent or minimise potential injury, danger or loss to themselves and others by ensuring their transport activities are safe.

“Confidential reporting systems are important as they allow people to report issues that are not being addressed by a company or operator, or if a person is afraid that speaking up might cost them their job.

“NHVR has partnered with Crime Stoppers Queensland to take advantage of their expertise in receiving confidential calls and ensuring they are processed appropriately.”

Mr Fill said that appropriate information to report may include:

- An incident or situation that affects the safety of a heavy vehicle or its operation.
- A procedure, practice or condition that endangers the safety of a heavy vehicle driver, their passengers, other road users or the community

- A procedure, practice or condition that leads to non-compliance with the HVNL.

Calls to the confidential line number will be free from any landline in Australia and from some mobile providers.

Anyone with a safety concern can call 1800 931 785, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

Mr Fill said that any issues that pose an immediate safety risk to a person should be referred to the police (e.g. a traffic accident involving a heavy vehicle losing its load or swerving over the road).

NHVR Seeks Comments on Draft Master Industry Code of Practice

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is seeking comments by 31 July on the draft Master Industry Code of Practice developed by the Australian Logistics Council and the Australian Trucking Association.

Once approved, the Master Code "will be freely available to all heavy vehicle operators and supply chain parties to assist them in improving their safety and compliance performance and can also be used in court to highlight known risks and control methods", NHVR regulatory compliance executive director, Tony Kursius said.

Mr Kursius said the Master Code addresses the management of speed, fatigue, mass, loading and vehicle standards as it relates to the new Chain of Responsibility amendments commencing on 1 October

A copy of the draft Master Code can be obtained from www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/industry-codes-of-practice/master-industry-code-of-practice.

NSW Workers Compensation Premium Rates 2018-19

iCare has released the following premium rates which shall apply to the nominated industries in 2018-19 as outlined in the table below.

Code	Workers Compensation Industry Classification Description	Premium Pool	Pool Rate	Dust Diseases Contribution (Incl GST)
			%	%
611010	Road Freight Transport – Bulk Freight	176	4.960	0.022
611020	Road Freight Transport - Short Distance	182	5.760	0.011
611030	Road Freight Transport - Long Distance	184	6.060	0.022
611040	Furniture Delivery and Removal Service	192	7.380	0.011

Further Reforms to Workers Compensation Arrangements in NSW

Adapted from advice courtesy, Jason Doueih, WCS Pty Ltd

Catastrophic Claims Contribution

iCare has lifted the burden of catastrophic claims on premiums. For an employer whose premium is impacted by claims, the premium will no longer be affected in the unfortunate event of a fatal injury at an employer's place of work.

Instead, a one-off contribution will apply to all employers when they make such a claim. This is referred to as the 'Catastrophic Claims Contribution'. This is intended to remove the volatility in premiums for employers where a workplace fatality occurs.

This contribution goes towards providing vital support for the dependants of a worker who has passed away as a result of a work-related incident.

iCare will calculate how much needs to be paid based on an employer's Average Performance Premium at the end of the policy period in which the incident occurred, less any excess already paid in relation to the claim.

Under the Catastrophic Claims Contribution, the minimum contribution payable is \$1,000 and the maximum is \$250,000 (based on an employer's Average Performance Premium).

This Contribution is invoiced at the end of the policy period in which the incident occurred, separately to premium.

Any related premium-impacting claims costs will not be included in claims history in future policy periods.

Premium Capping

Experience rated employers will now benefit from greater premium stability with the introduction of premium caps.

A cap will be applied to an experience premium if the new premium rate is more than 30% greater/lower than the old premium rate. The cap applies where the increase/decrease in premium percentage rate is a result of a change in the employer's claims experience, or due to amendments in the premium methodology.

The cap does not apply if the increase is due to:

- An increase in wages.
- Change to a Workers Compensation Industry Classification (WIC) classification.
- A change of business activity.

This cap will be applied automatically at renewal – there is no action required by employers.

Auto Renewals

Experience rated employers will now benefit from having their policy automatically renewed.

SafeWork Australia Issues Road Transport Industry Snapshot

The latest snapshot of the road transport industry released by SafeWork Australia in June shows that more needs to be done to improve workplace safety in the industry.

Key points raised in SafeWork Australia's snapshot are:

- Worker fatalities are high with 15.6 fatalities per 100,000 workers, with no improvement in recent years.
- Serious claims rates are high with 11.0 serious claims per million hours worked, however, this has fallen by 36 per cent since 2011-12.
- The freight sub-sector accounted for 92 per cent of worker fatalities and 82 per cent of serious claims with the balance on the passenger sub-sector.
- As an occupation, truck drivers accounted for the highest proportion of both worker fatalities (84 per cent) and serious claims (54 per cent).
- Vehicle incidents accounted for 79 per cent of worker fatalities, followed by being hit by moving objects (6 per cent).
- Muscular stress while handling objects accounted for the highest proportion of serious claims (18 per cent), followed by muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down an object (15 per cent), and falls on the same level (13 per cent).

SafeWork Australia notes that in November 2017 the transport, postal and warehousing industry:

- Accounted for 5 per cent of total employment.
- Experienced employment growth of 9 per cent over the five years to November 2017.
- Can expect employment growth of 7 per cent over the next five years.
- Is comprised of a slightly older demographic, with 48 per cent of workers aged 45 years and over, compared with 40 per cent across all industries.

SafeWork Australia's snapshot also says that on average, the industry recorded the highest fatality rate and accounted for the second highest number of fatalities over the last five years. The industry also recorded the highest frequency rate of serious claims.

In its *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022*, SafeWork Australia has identified as a national priority the need to reduce the high rate of fatalities and serious claims the road transport industry an industry.

Reserve Bank Remains Positive on Labour Market Outlook

Adapted from Statement, Philip Lowe, Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, 3 July 2018

The Reserve Bank of Australia has stated that the outlook for the Australian labour market remains positive underpinned by strong growth in employment and a significant increase in labour force participation.

The RBA says that forward looking indicators suggest that employment will continue to grow at a solid rate and that there will be a gradual decline in the unemployment rate after a prolonged period when the unemployment rate was approximately 5.5 per cent.

According to the RBA, while the low rate of wages growth is likely to continue strengthening rates of economic growth can be expected to lead to increased wages over time. The RBA also says there are increasing reports of skills shortages in parts of the economy.

The RBA expects the inflation rate to increase to over 2 per cent per annum later in 2018.

The RBA announced no change in official interest rates in its 3 July statement.

Transport Certification Australia Updates National Telematics Framework

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 9 July 2018

Transport Certification Australia has released an updated suite of documents for the National Telematics Framework.

According to TCA, the National Telematics Framework is a government-endorsed, digital business platform for telematics and related intelligent technologies, which manages the relationships and interactions between producers, providers and consumers.

TCA says the digital economy – and associated technological advancements – are challenging the public sector, which is striving to foster innovation, protect consumers and address the potential unintended consequences of disruption to ensure an open technology market.

Chief Executive Officer of TCA, Chris Konidistiotis, said, these updated documents have been developed to provide greater clarity to producers, providers and consumers.

Mr Konidistiotis said the Framework is being utilised across a range of policy areas, industry sectors and end-users which means it is crucial that key components of the Framework are understood by all stakeholders.

The updated suite of documents includes the:

- National Telematics Framework.
- Business Rules.
- Telematics Data Dictionary.
- Telematics Data Exchange.
- Levels of Assurance; and
- Application Builder.

These documents comprise the inter-related components which underpin the operation of the Framework and allow providers to link producers and consumers by offering applications with different levels of assurance to co-exist.

These documents also highlight how the Framework enables outcomes to be achieved, which would not otherwise be possible without appropriate guidance from government.

Mr Konidistiotis said a new addition to the updated suite of documents is the Application Builder document which is targeted to producers and demonstrates how new applications can be easily created by referencing the common components available through the Framework.

TCA says it will further develop these documents, and welcomes feedback from stakeholders via email, tca@tca.gov.au.

The Framework is available from www.tca.gov.au/ntf/national-telematics-framework.

WestConnex: Traffic Changes, May St, St Peters from 13 July

The WestConnex Delivery Authority has advised that as a result of work to realign the intersection at May St, Campbell St, Bedwin Rd and Unwins Bridge Rd in St Peters, the following changed traffic conditions will be in effect from Friday 13 July until October 2018:

- No right turn from Unwins Bridge Rd into Campbell St
 - Left turn will be permitted from Princes Hwy northbound into Campbell St but only for vehicles under 6 metres
 - May St will be reduced to one lane in each direction near the intersection
 - Bedwin Rd will be reduced to one lane in each direction with a right turning lane from Bedwin Rd into Unwins Bridge Rd at the intersection.
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Infrastructure Update

Significant infrastructure milestones achieved since 29 June include:

- Introduction of extended clearways are now operational in both directions on the following route:
 - From 23 July 2018, Pacific Hwy from Pennant Hills Rd, Wahroonga to Mona Vale Rd, Pymble Rd (both directions):
 - 6am to 7pm on weekdays.
 - 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.
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Road Works Update

The following road works may impact your operations:

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	Work Times
Ashfield	Frederick St at John St and Henry St intersections	14/5-4/9/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 10am-3.30pm Mon-Fri (6 shifts only)
Brooklyn-Mooney Mooney	Old Pacific Highway, Peats Ferry Bridge	18/6-14/9/18	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 7am-3pm Sat
Campbelltown	Narellan Rd and Appin Rd	14/6-3/9/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri 7am-1pm Sat
Caringbah	Cnr Kingsway and Gannons Rd	14/5-30/8/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Cowan	Pacific Hwy, from 300m south of the Pacific Motorway underpass to 350m south of Glendale Rd.	18/6-17/8/2018	7am-5pm Mon-Fri
Cowan	Pacific Motorway from about 700m south of the Pacific Hwy overpass for about two km north	17/6-28/9/2018	8pm-5am Sun-Sat
Eastern Creek	Intersection Great Western Hwy, Doonside Rd and Brabham Dr	late June-21/12/2018	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Sat
Glenmore Park - South Penrith	The Northern Rd from Glenmore Parkway to Jamison Rd	5/7-3/9/18	7pm-7am Mon-Sun
Greystanes	Cnr Cumberland Hwy and Merrylands Rd	Till mid 2019	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat
Homebush-Haberfield	Various locations on Parramatta Rd. Includes lane closures and road closures at some intersections.	Till early 2019	
Liverpool	Cnr Hume Hwy, Copeland St, Hoxton Park Rd and Macquarie St and cnr Hume Hwy and Rose St	25/6-31/8/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	Gardeners Rd from Kent Rd to O'Riordan St.	Till early 2020	

	Gardeners Rd, eastbound traffic reduced to one lane from Kent Rd to O'Riordan St. One left hand turning lane from Gardeners Rd onto Bourke Rd eastbound will remain open. Right hand turn from Gardeners Rd westbound onto Bourke Rd removed. Drivers can turn right at O'Riordan St to access Bourke Rd. Access to all nearby businesses will be maintained during the works.		
Mascot/Botany – Airport East project	Botany Rd, Mill Pond Dr, Wentworth Ave, Hardie St, Beresford St, General Holmes Dr and Joyce Dr	Ongoing	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat 9am-5pm 5 nights/week 1pm-6pm Sat – new rail bridge site near Botany Rd only
Mays Hill to Lapstone	M4 Motorway from Pitt St, Mays Hill and Russell St, Lapstone.	2/7 to 28/9/18	6pm-7am Sun-Fri. 7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat
Narrabeen	Deep Ck Bridge, Wakehurst Parkway, from Caley Trail to Elanora Rd.	28/5-26/10/18	7am-5pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat
North Richmond	Intersection Bells Line of Road/Terrace Rd and Grose Vale Rd	2/7-29/9/18	7pm-7am Sun-Fri. 7am-7pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat
Prospect	Cnr Great Western Hwy and Blacktown Rd	10/6-30/11/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri 7am-1pm Sat
Zetland-Botany	Southern Cross Dr from Link Rd to Botany Rd	6/6-26/10/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri. 7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2018	\$m	436,388	2.8
CPI (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2018	Per cent		1.9
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	29 June 2018	Million	24.970	1.9
Retail turnover (ABS)	Apr 2018	\$m	26,541	2.6
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2018	\$m	29,873	4.1
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Mar 2018	\$m	156,868	0.2
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	May 2018	Number	18,114	0.4
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Mar 2018	\$m	83,550	3.7
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	11 months ending May 2018	Number	2,396,097	7.3
Employed persons (ABS)	May 2018	Million	12.522	2.6
Unemployment rate(ABS)	May 2018	Percentage	5.5	-0.2
Wage price Index (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2018	Per cent		
All employees				2.1
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.7

¹ ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics; RBA – Reserve Bank of Australia; AIP – Australian Institute of Petroleum; FCAI – Federated Chamber of Automotive Industries; TIC – Truck Industry Council/'Prime Mover' latest issue.

New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	Mar 2018	Number	106,988	1.5
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	5 months ending May 2018	Number	13,293	24.5
Vans (TIC)	5 months ending May 2018	Number	2446	9.4
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	10 July 2018	Cents/litre incl. GST	138.2	28.2

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