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Australian Road Transport
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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Reasonable Travel and Overtime Meal Allowance Expense Amounts Update

The industry engaged in further productive discussions with the Australian Taxation Office around the issue of what 'reasonable meal expenses' an employed driver may claim whilst away from home and where that driver purchases food at various times of the day. Industry expects that the ATO will finalise outstanding issues within a couple of weeks and will advise members when the issue is concluded for the 2017/18 financial year.

Further, there will be a consultative group established, involving key industry players, to help the ATO understand better how the long haul industry operates and ensure there is a proper and clear focus on

informing and educating both employers and employees on their various rights and responsibilities under this regime.

Be Sun Smart This Summer

With the early onset of hot weather this month, ARTIO NSW takes this opportunity to remind all Members of their workplace obligations in relation to cancer prevention arising from prolonged exposure to the sun.

The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW) requires employers in NSW to provide a safe working environment for all employees. The Act also says employees must co-operate with the employer's efforts to make the work environment safe. Both employer and employee can be prosecuted if they do not do so.

As the Cancer Council of NSW website says. '...protecting your workers from UV related harm isn't just a legal obligation – it makes good business sense too.'

You can read more at <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/26062/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/local-government-workplace/local-government/sun-safety-information-for-employers/#hZUOy2ug2Cfsy8gK.99>.

Turnbull Government Announces Inquiry into National Road Safety Strategy

Adapted from media release, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Darren Chester, 8 September, 2017

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Darren Chester, has commissioned an inquiry aimed at improving the effectiveness of the *National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2021*.

Mr Chester said that while deaths from road crashes in Australia have fallen over the course of the *Strategy*, they have risen in the past two years. He said road trauma 'has an enormous social and economic impact and in economic terms, road injury costs our nation an estimated \$30 billion per year'.

Mr Chester has appointed Associate Professor Jeremy Woolley, Director of the Center for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide and Dr John Crozier, Chair of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons' Trauma Committee to co-chair the inquiry.

Further information, including how to make a submission is available from www.roadsafety.gov.au.

One in Six Working Age People Experience a Mental Health Illness – NSW Government Wants to Tap into your Experience

Adapted from joint media release, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, Matt Kean and Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies, 29 August, 2017

The NSW Government has hosted a briefing which has focused on the thousands of NSW workers affected by mental illness every day.

'At any given time, one in six working-age people suffer from a mental illness...', NSW Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, Matt Kean said.

'This is about putting people, not process, at the centre of the mental health system...', Minister for Mental Health, Tanya Davies said.

The briefing was part of SafeWork NSW's *Work Health and Safety Roadmap for NSW 2022*, a six-year plan that aims to reduce work-related serious injuries and illnesses, including mental illness by 30 per cent. ARTIO NSW was represented at the launch of the Roadmap last year.

Further information is available from www.safework.nsw.gov.au/health-and-safety/safety-topics-a-z-mental-health.

R U OK? Five Tips for Managing Worker Suicide

Adapted from article OHS Alert, 8 September, 2017

Employee assistance provider, AccessEAP has identified five tips to assist employers and managers on how to 'have a conversation' with an employee exhibiting suicide warning signs. They are:

- Maintain regular contact with and get to know their employees, which helps managers 'develop important connections' with staff and notice any behaviour changes, like withdrawal, irritability, unexplained absences or declining performance.
- Clarify concerns through simple, private conversations with struggling employees to see if they are ok or would like help.
- Listen to the person without interrupting or making judgements, and then summarise what has been said to ensure there are no misunderstandings.
- Explore options for struggling employees, like changes to work arrangements suggested by the employee, but don't attempt to problem-solve personal issues.
- Directly ask the employee if they are thinking of harming themselves if they hint at suicide. Unless they directly answer 'no', immediately escalate to another person for advice, for example an existing person.

Further information is available from the EAP hotline, telephone, 1800 818 728, or Lifeline, telephone, 13 11 44.

Another Solid Year for TWUSUPER

TWUSUPER has delivered another solid year of returns to Members in the year ending 30 June 2017. The return for TWUSUPER, Transuiper and Transpersonal Members investing with 'Equity Plus' was 13.54 per cent while Members investing in the balanced option enjoyed returns of 11.54 per cent. Respective returns for Transpension members were 15.34 per cent and 13.08 per cent.

For further information about TWUSUPER, please visit www.twusuper.com.au.

Government Issues Security Guide for Transport Operators and Drivers

The Australian Government has developed a security guide for transport operators and drivers in response to the use of trucks in terrorist attacks overseas. The guide provides practical security advice related to the relevant threat context, security measures that can be taken, indicators and warnings to assist in risk mitigation and how to report to law enforcement.

A copy of the guide is available from www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/Securityandyourcommunity/Documents/Security-guidance-for-truck-drivers-and-operators-fact-sheet.pdf.

Employment at Record High After 11 Consecutive Months of Jobs Growth

Adapted from media release, Minister for Employment Senator Michaelia Cash, 14 September, 2017

The Minister for Employment, Senator Cash, said Australian Bureau of Statistics' labour force figures showed the number of people in employment in Australia increased for the 11th consecutive month in August.

Senator Cash said employment rose by 54,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis (that is after removing the estimated impact of seasonal factors on employment levels).

She said total employment stood at 12.269 million and increased by 325,600 in the past 12 months. She said the rate of growth in employment was 2.7 per cent, compared to an average of 1.6 per cent over the past decade. Full time employment grew by 3.1 per cent over this 12-month period while the female participation rate grew by 0.4 percentage points to reach 60 per cent for the first time.

Gender Pay Gap Narrows Across the Workforce

Adapted from media release, Minister for Employment Senator Michaelia Cash, 4 September, 2017

The Minister for Employment, Senator Cash, has welcomed the narrowing of the gender pay gap in the year ending May 2017 when compared to the corresponding period in 2016.

Senator Cash said the gender pay gap narrowed from 16.3 per cent in the year ending May 2016 to 15.3 per cent in the year ending May, 2017.

According to the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, the gender pay gap has oscillated between 14.9 per cent and 18.5 per cent in the past 20 years. There is been a noticeable narrowing of the gender pay gap since 2014.

The gender pay gap in the private sector was 19.3 per cent in the year ending May 2017. In the transport, postal and warehousing sector in the year ending May 2017, the gender pay gap was 18 per cent compared to 16.3 per cent a year earlier.

Further information is available from www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/gender-pay-gap-statistics.

Acceleration in Population Growth to Impact on Industry

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 27 September show Australia's population grew by 1.61 per cent in the year ending 31 March 2017. This is the highest rate of growth for three years and compares to a population growth rate of 1.45 per cent for the year ending 31 March 2016.

NSW's population grew by 1.6 per cent in the year ending 31 March 2017 while the ACT's population grew by 1.8 per cent. Sydney's population grew by 1.83 per cent.

Victoria has the fastest population growth rate in the year ending 31 March 2017 at 2.43 per cent, population growth in Queensland is slightly below the national average while population in other states and the NT lagged well behind the national average.

Editorial Comment

Population levels can be expected to reflect demand for a wide range of retail, household and construction materials as well as economic and social infrastructure such as transport and utility networks, hospitals and schools. Other things being equal, any increase in the rate of population growth can be expected to lead to an increase in the demand for road transport services related to those areas of the economy.

NHVR Announces Further Delay to Roller Brake Testing Transition in NSW

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced a further extension of roller brake testing transition arrangements to 31 January 2018 at the request of industry bodies and Roads and Maritime Services.

NHVR Chief Engineer, Les Brusza, said trials are being conducted aimed at ensuring compliant braking systems are not incorrectly defected.

Further information is available from www.nhvr.gov.au/national-roller-brake-testing-procedure.

Turnbull Government Cracking Down on Phoenixing Activity

Adapted from media release, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services, Kelly O'Dwyer, 14 September, 2017

The Turnbull Government has announced that it is cracking down on illegal phoenixing activity through a package of reforms.

Phoenixing involves the stripping and transfer of assets from one company to another by individuals and entities to avoid paying liabilities. According to Ms O'Dwyer, phoenixing costs the economy \$3.2 billion per year.

Reforms proposed include the introduction of a Director Identification Number (DIN) which will identify directors through a unique number. Ms O'Dwyer said the DIN will allow for interfacing with other government agencies and databases to enable regulators to map relationships between individuals and entities and individuals and other people.

Ms O'Dwyer said consultation will also be held on implementing a range of other measures aimed at disrupting and deterring the core behaviours of phoenix operators, including advisors.

Ms O'Dwyer also said the government will consult on ways to identify high risk individuals who may engage in phoenixing behavior.

ATO Targeting Illegal Phoenixing Activity

The Australian Taxation Office is targeting illegal phoenixing activity in order to make the business environment fairer for those who do the right thing.

If you suspect a business is promoting illegal phoenix activity, you can report this to the ATO by completing an [online tax evasion reporting form](#), emailing phoenix@ato.gov.au or telephoning 1800 060 062

NHVR Seeking Feedback on Personal Use of Heavy Vehicles

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is seeking feedback from industry on user-friendly arrangements related to the personal use of heavy vehicles.

NHVR CEO, Sal Petrocitto, said the NHVR is proposing a Personal Use Exemption to allow transport operators some personal use outside normal driving hours.

Mr Petrocitto said the NHVR proposes to allow up to one hour at the end of a working day or on a day off to use a heavy vehicle for personal purposes.

'Currently a personal use exemption of up to an hour during a driver's day off exists in NSW,' Mr Petrocitto said.

Activities considered to fall into the category of personal use including restocking supplies for a trip and reaching suitable sleeping accommodation.

Further information is available from www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/personal-use-of-a-fatigue-related-heavy-vehicle.

NHVR to Administer Class 1 Permit Applications in the ACT

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Roads ACT have reached agreement to enable the NHVR to process all Class 1 permit applications whenever travel is undertaken within the ACT. Class 2 and Class 3 permit applications covering travel within the ACT are already administered by the NHVR.

Permit applications can be accessed from www.service.nhvr.gov.au.

Infrastructure Update

Significant infrastructure milestones achieved since 18 August include:

- Opening of 11km of dual carriageway on the Pacific Highway between Halfway Creek and Glenugie.
- Opening of 14km of dual carriageway on the Pacific Highway between Kempsey and Kundabung. This upgrade includes a new heavy vehicle inspection facility.
- Installation of new electronic speed signs on the Pacific Highway south of Broadwater to assist drivers in adapting to conditions during construction of the Woolgoolga to Ballina section of the highway. This includes reinstatement of highway speed limits outside construction working hours in some construction zones to assist the road freight industry.
- Opening of new and extended clearways on Epping Road between Epping and Lane Cove North to provide direct access to the Macquarie Park employment precinct and the M2 Motorway at North Ryde. Extended clearways will apply from 6am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, and from 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.
- Installation of additional turning lanes and altered parking conditions designed to facilitate improved traffic flow at the intersection of the Central Coast Highway and Racecourse Road, West Gosford.
- Finalisation of the preferred route for the Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail route.

Road Works Update

The following road works may impact your operations

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	Work Times
Woolooware	Kingsway from Gannons Rd to Trickett Rd	9-15/10/17, 12-23/11/17, 7/1/18-2/2/18	9pm-5am
South Penrith to Glenmore	The Northern Rd	4-29/10/17	7pm-7am
Wolli Creek	Princes Hwy from Brodie Spark Dr to Holbeach Ave	9/10/17-19/11/17	9pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri
Rozelle	Western Distributor and James Craig Dr from Victoria Rd to Pyrmont Bridge Rd	8/10/17-30/11/17	9pm-4am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri
Landsdowne	Hume Highway intersections with Henry Lawson Dr and Woodville Rd	3-13/10	9pm-5am
Rosebery	Botany Rd from Queen St to Hayes Rd	To 22/12	9pm-5am Sun-Fri

TWUSUPER Super News September 2017

Nearly \$500k of lost super found in one workplace

Workers at a large transport company in NSW got a pleasant surprise when TWUSUPER found nearly half a million dollars of lost super at a workplace visit in April 2017.

Michael Darmanin, TWUSUPER's Account Manager in NSW, has been helping members find their lost super online in just a few minutes.

If you have TWUSUPER members in your workplace, why not call us to see if we could help your employees find lost super? Call **1800 241 877** to find out about our Workplace Education Sessions.

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SG Payments due 28 October

Super Guarantee (SG) payments for the quarter ended 30 September 2017 are due 28 October 2017. Employers who make super payments to their employees after this date risk paying a potential SG Charge to the ATO.

If you need help making the SG payment please call TWUSUPER on **1800 241 877** between 8am and 8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays.

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Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2017	\$m	427.713	2.1
CPI (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2017	Per cent		1.9
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	29 Sept 2017	Million	24.694	1.6
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Jul 2017	\$m	26,157	3.5
Actual New Capital Expenditure (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2017	\$m	28,169	-4.0
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Jun 2017	\$m	156,456	1.7
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Jul 2017	Number	17,882	-11.4
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2017	\$m	80,742	-2.7
TEUs Port Botany year to date	1 month ending Jul 2017	Number	212,524	7.3
Employed persons (ABS)	Aug 2017	Million	12.250	2.6
Unemployment rate(ABS)	Aug 2017	Percentage	5.6	-0.1
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2017	Per cent		
All employees				1.9
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.8
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	Aug 2017	Number	100,809	2.7
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	6 months ending Jun 2017	Number	13,903	8.0
Vans (TIC)	6 months ending Jun 2017	Number	2,888	3.0
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	29 Sept 2017	Cents/litre incl. GST	116.0	

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

