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Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

New South Wales Branch

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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

Newsletter Vol. 3 No. 13: 30 November 2017

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SafeWork NSW Starts Consultations with Industry on WHS Priority Actions

ARTIO NSW was represented at an invitation only event organized by SafeWork NSW to develop priority actions aimed at reducing the incidence and severity of workplace health and safety incidents in the road transport industry. Other organisations with interests in transport and logistics, and in mental health, were also in attendance at this 27 November event.

These consultations build on the Workplace Health and Safety Roadmap for NSW 2022 which was launched last year and into which ARTIO NSW provided input as an industry stakeholder. This roadmap recognizes road transport as one of six focus industries where SafeWork NSW will work with organizations like ARTIO NSW to create safer workplaces.

SafeWork NSW wants input into what will be a plan of action for the industry in NSW. SafeWork NSW aid it will take into account issues raised by attendees at forums run by ARTIO NSW in March and April this year in developing a document. It wants to hold further events in the coming months. ARTIO NSW has commenced discussions with SafeWork NSW on events planned for April-May next year.

SafeWork NSW Launch: Expression of Interest Sought

SafeWork NSW wants to launch the industry action plan at a road transport operator's premises, probably toward the middle of next year. If you are interested, please contact Hugh McMaster, ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer, tel: 0412 880861, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au.

Reduce Risks of Intoxication at Christmas Parties

Adapted from article, OHS Alert, 14 November, 2017

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation has reminded employers of their obligations to provide a safe working environment at end of year Christmas parties. The Foundation's national workplace manager, Natasha Jager says that: '(e)mmployers need to be able to demonstrate they've taken reasonably practicable steps to create that safe environment'.

She says employers need to outline clearly what behaviours are expected of workers and their guests. She says this includes acting in a way that will not bring the company into disrepute and putting inappropriate posts about the event on social media.

Ms James says that food, games and mocktails all contribute to slowing down drinking. Employers should also prohibit shots or drinking games and provide low alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks. Employers should watch out for participants who stockpile drinks.

Ms James says holding an event overseen by Responsible Service of Alcohol staff 'alleviates some of the employer's responsibilities'.

Further information is available from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation website, <https://adf.org.au/christmas-parties>.

Transport Ministers Approve Greater Access for PBS Level 1 Vehicles: Measures Must Pass Queensland Parliament before they Take Effect

Adapted from media release, National Transport Commission, 16 November, 2017

Australia's Transport Ministers have approved amendments to the National Heavy Vehicle Law to permit greater network access for high-volume heavy vehicles.

Vehicles approved to level 1 of the performance Based Standards will be allowed general access to the road network provided their GVM is below 42.5 tonnes. However, these amendments require passage through Queensland parliament before they take effect.

According to the NTC, economy wide benefits totaling \$1 billion per annum will accrue from the implementation of these proposed changes.

'By allowing operators to deliver more, with fewer trucks, carrying larger, but not heavier loads – all within the bounds of well-established safety standards – there are benefits for industry, the rural sector, the economy, and ultimately, all Australians,' NTC Acting Chief Executive, Dr Geoff Allan said.

Dr Allan said these reforms have been developed on the basis that safety will not be compromised. He said other work on PBS vehicles shows they are involved in 46 per cent fewer crashes than conventional vehicles.

Transport Ministers Approve Automated Vehicle Regulation Reforms

Adapted from media release, National Transport Commission, 13 November, 2017

Australia's transport ministers have approved two automated vehicle reforms according to National Transport Commission CEO, Paul Retter.

Mr Retter said that ministers endorsed new national enforcement guidelines and agreed to the development of a national safety assurance system at the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting on 10 November.

'Ministers have agreed to a goal of having an end-to-end regulatory system in place by 2020 to support the safe, commercial deployment of automated vehicles in all levels of automation. This is an important milestone towards that goal,' Mr Retter said.

Mr Retter said the National Enforcement Guidelines will provide guidance to police applying road rules to automated vehicles. This includes clarity regarding who is in control of the vehicle at different levels of automation.

Minister Chester Releases Roadside Drug Testing Report

Adapted from media release, The Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, 10 November, 2017

The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Darren Chester, has released the roadside drug testing scoping study report, which was commissioned by the Australian Government.

Mr Chester said that although Australia is a world leader in roadside drug testing, more needs to be done to reduce risks and deter drivers from driving after using illegal drugs.

'The opportunity was identified for governments to work more closely with police across Australia to develop a national focus and shared approach to the enforcement of drug-impaired driving,' Mr Chester said.

'In response, the Australian Government will establish a National Drug-Impaired Driving working group to include representatives of police, road authorities and policy makers, to work towards a national best practice model for roadside drug testing.

'This collaboration has the potential to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads.'

Wage Growth Rates Still Low Despite Signs of Turnaround

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show a slight upward trend in private sector wage growth rates, although they remain at historically low levels.

The ABS's September quarter Wage Price Index shows wages in the private sector, excluding bonuses, grew by 0.5 per cent in the September quarter and 1.9 per cent over the year to 30 September. This annual rate of increase matches the 1.9 per cent increase in the year to 30 June and is slightly higher than the 1.8 per cent annual increases recorded for the years ending 31 December 2016 and 31 March 2017.

Reserve Bank of Australia Statement on the Australian Economy

Adapted from Statement by Philip Lowe, Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, 7 November, 2017

The Reserve Bank is seeing more promising signs for the Australian economy according to its latest statement. The bank expects GDP to pick up to an annual growth rate of 3 per cent in the next few years. This is underpinned by a more positive business outlook increased capacity utilization, increased investment by businesses in the non-mining sectors and in infrastructure spending by governments.

The labour market continues to strengthen with employment rising in all states. However wage growth rates are likely to remain low, although some lift in wage growth can be expected over time. Inflation is also expected to remain low due to slow growth in wages and competitive pressures in the retail sector.

Interest Rate Outlook

In a separate address on 22 November, Dr Lowe said that a key barrier to raising official interest rates is weak wages growth and low inflation.

'Low wages growth means low inflation, which means low interest rates....', Dr Lowe said.

ACCC to Continue Focus on Unfair Contract Terms to Help Small Business

Adapted from media release, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 13 November, 2017

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission says it is continuing to educate business and take enforcement action to ensure that small businesses receive the protections of the new unfair contract terms laws.

The ACCC says that following its successful court action against JJ Richards & Sons Pty Ltd, for unfair contract terms it has commenced proceedings against serviced an office space provider.

"These cases show the ACCC is serious about enforcing the new laws, and we will continue to take action where appropriate to ensure that small businesses are protected," ACCC Deputy Chair Dr Michael Schaper said.

"ACCC engagement has seen tens of thousands of new or existing contracts improved, but this is the tip of the iceberg as Australia's two million small businesses sign an average of eight standard form contracts a year."

The ACCC has said that a number of major traders such as Uber, Fairfax Media, Jetts Fitness, Lendlease Property Management and Sensis amended their standard small business contracts in response to unfair contract terms concerns raised by the ACCC. These changes have an effect upon thousands of small business contracts across Australia.

The ACCC says that small businesses should look out for common types of terms which may be unfair:

- Automatic renewal terms binding customers to subsequent contracts unless they cancel the contract within a certain timeframe.
- Terms allowing a trader to unilaterally increase its prices or alter the terms and conditions of the contract.
- Terms that broadly limit a trader's liability towards a small business, or which require a small business to indemnify a trader in an unreasonably broad range of circumstances.

- Terms that allow traders to cancel or terminate an agreement without cause.

It says that if small business thinks a contract term is unfair, it should ask the provider to amend or remove the unfair term. If this is unsuccessful, a small business can:

- Contact the ACCC (or otherwise Australian Securities and Investments Commission if it relates to a financial service or product).
- Seek the assistance of the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner or Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman.

The ACCC has produced guidance material for businesses about the new laws, including a fact sheet which explains what an unfair term is, and what small businesses can do if they think they have an unfair term in their contract. Further information is available from <https://www.accc.gov.au/publications/unfair-terms-in-small-business-contracts>.

NSW Small Business Commissioner Issues Warning about Cyber Scams

The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner has now released its Cyber Aware National Report which highlights the increasing risk of cybercrime to businesses. The report provides results of a study into cyber security awareness of businesses, based on 1019 responses from small and medium-sized enterprises. Key findings are:

- Four out of five respondents recognise the increasing risk of becoming a victim of cybercrime
- 42% believe they can protect their business from cybercrime by limiting their online presence
- 20% believe they experienced a cybercrime event, and that:
 - 41% of these events resulted from malware.
 - 40% of these events cost the business between \$1000 and \$5000, and for two out of three businesses these costs were not recovered

The report supports the need for increased awareness of cybercrime to ensure small businesses can safely do business online.

The Small Business Commissioners Office says that business can help protect themselves by:

- Installing security software and regularly backing up your data.
- Using a cloud-based email service.
- Educating your staff.

Further information is available from the OSBC website, <http://www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/resources/how-cyber-aware-is-your-small-business>.

RMS Issues New Requirements Affecting Oversize/Overmass Vehicles

Road and Maritime Services has issued new operating guidelines related to the Oversize and/or Overmass Vehicle Drivers Scheme. Further information is available from <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/escort-accreditation-scheme-requirements-operating-guidelines.pdf>.

RMS has also issued new requirements related to load declarations in circumstances where an oversize and/or overmass vehicle requires an escort. Further details regarding the new requirements are available from <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/oversize-overmass/index.html>.

RMS has also amended its load declaration form for OSOM vehicles which is available from <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/about/forms/45071986-osom-load-declaration.pdf>.

RMS Oversize/Overmass Vehicle Christmas/New Year Travel Requirements

Roads and Maritime Services has released information on the travel requirements for oversize agricultural vehicles, load carrying vehicles and special purpose vehicles during the 2017/18 Christmas holiday period. This information is now available on the RMS website at:

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/xmas-holiday-travel-requirements-load-carrying-vehicles.pdf>

Austrroads to Hold Oversize/Overmass Webinar

Austrroads will hold a webinar on new procedures for weighing oversize and/or overmass vehicle combinations using portable scales. According to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Austrroads has developed a procedure for assessing OSOM vehicle mass which withstands engineering and legal scrutiny.

The NHVR says the webinar will provide details of field tests to determine the accuracy and repeatability of roadside weighing techniques and the manner in which Mass Measurement Adjustment factors will be used in enforcement has announced it will conduct a review into the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme and other accreditation schemes in operation in the industry.

To register, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9076328136392065539>.

Woolworths Mandates Audible Brake Alarms at its Distribution Sites

Woolworths has announced that vehicles entering its distribution sites will need to be fitted with an audible park brake alarm, effective 1 January. Trucks fitted with these alarms and deemed compliant will need to display a Woolworths issued compliance sticker – see image.

Vehicles not fitted with a Park Brake Alarm and Woolworths Compliance Sticker will not be permitted to enter a Woolworths, Big W or MeatCo sites. For all Woolworths, Big W and Meat Co sites

Woolworths site minimum requirements for the alarm are:

- Clearly audible and distinguishable alarm that can be heard within the cabin of the vehicle, with the vehicle's engine running. Preferably audible from outside of the vehicle as well.
- Activated when the driver's door is opened and the park brake has not been applied.
- Activated when the vehicle's ignition is both on and off.

Alternatively, vehicles can be supplied or fitted with an Automatic Park Brake device. This device automatically applies the vehicle's park brake if the driver's door is opened when the vehicle is either stationary or moving at very low speed, with the ignition on or off.

The Woolworths issued Compliance Stickers are to be placed on the driver's side of the vehicle in plain sight so the vehicle can be easily identified when entering a Woolworths, Big W or MeatCo site.



For more information and copies of the Woolworth's Inspection Guide and Vehicle Sticker Register information please contact - David Hine, National Transport Safety & Compliance Manager - Woolworths Group Supply Chain via email dhine2@woolworths.com.au

Commonwealth Games – Be Prepared

Transport operators who operate on the Gold Coast are urged to start preparing for the Commonwealth Games which will be held on the Gold Coast from 4 to 15 April next year.

A range of temporary arrangements will be put in place which will affect access, delivery times and drop-off locations. In planning access to parts of the Gold Coast affected by the Commonwealth Games, consideration will need to be given to road closures and diversions, loading zone changes, permit only accessible areas, dangerous goods movement restrictions, speed limit reductions and other mandatory legal requirements as well as changes to the classification of vehicles permitted on certain routes.

Further information is available from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads website at: <https://getsetforthegames.com/freight-servicing-and-deliveries>.

Infrastructure Update

Significant infrastructure milestones achieved since 1 November include:

- Opening of 18km of dual carriageway on the Pacific Hwy between the Oxley Highway interchange and Kundabung.
- Completion of upgrade program on the Kings Highway between Queanbeyan and Nelligen.

Introduction of extended clearways, weather permitting, are proposed on:

- Pennant Hills Rd between M2 Motorway, Carlingford and Pacific Hwy, Wahroonga from 4 December.
 - Pennant Hills Rd between James Ruse Dr, Oatlands and M2 Motorway, Carlingford from 11 December.
 - Punchbowl Rd from King Georges Rd, Punchbowl to Coronation Pde, Croydon Park from 18 December.
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Picton Rd – Oversize/Overmass Vehicle Restrictions

RMS advises that work at the east and westbound rest areas on Picton Rd has placed restrictions on load sizes on Picton Rd. Safety barriers have restricted the lane widths to 4 metres in each direction. Restrictions will be in place:

- Westbound – until the end of May 2018
- Eastbound – from 15 January 2018 to the end of May 2018

During working hours (Monday to Friday, 7.30am – 3.30pm), RMS requests OSOM vehicle drivers to advise the site coordinator of their approach and traffic controllers can assist drivers to proceed through the site. The site coordinator can be reached on UHF 20

Outside the above hours, vehicles over 4.0m wide will require an escort to manage oncoming traffic and allow wide vehicles to proceed.

Road Works Update

The following road works may impact your operations:

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	Work Times
Homebush to Haberfield	Various locations on Parramatta Rd. Includes lane closures and road closures at some intersections.	Till early 2019	
Alexandria	Changed traffic conditions on Euston Rd between Sydney Park Rd and Maddox St. Lanes closed in and road closure at Maddox St. Detour via Huntley St and Bourke Rd. No parking on northbound.	Till mid-2018	
Mascot	Gardeners Rd between Kent Rd and O’Riordan St. Gardeners Rd, eastbound traffic reduced to one lane between Kent Rd and 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.	Till early 2020	
St Peters	Campbell St will be closed in both directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Crown St to Barwon Park Rd; • From Princes Hwy. No access from Burrows Rd into Campbell St except for local residents. Crown St traffic will be temporarily reversed from northbound one way to southbound one way. No heavy vehicles permitted.	31/10-17-Dec 2017	
Homebush and surrounds	Sections of the M4 Motorway and Concord Rd	Oct-Dec 2017	Night time closures
Banksmeadow	Botany Rd from Stephen Rd to Foreshore Rd	26/11/17-2/3/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rozelle-Drummoyne	Victoria Rd from Cary St to The Crescent	26/11/17-2/3/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Narellan-Penrith	The Northern Rd	21/11-22/12/17	7pm-7am
Gordon	Pacific Hwy/Merriwa St intersection	23/11-15/12/17	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Woolooware	Kingsway from Gannons Rd to Trickett Rd	12-23/11/17, 7/1/18-2/2/18	9pm-5am

TWUSUPER Super News November 2017

Single Touch payroll on the Way

Single Touch Payroll is a new reporting requirement for employers. Affected areas include:

- salaries and wages
- PAYG withholding, and
- superannuation.

The above payments will need to be reported to the ATO from an employer's payroll solution at the same time the payments are made – meaning employers will no longer be able to use a separate process to report payments to the ATO. This requirement applies from:

- 1 July 2018 for employers with 20 or more employees
- 1 July 2019 for employers with 19 or fewer employees (but they can choose to start earlier).

The ATO advises that employers should conduct an employee headcount on 1 April 2018 to see if they must meet the requirements by 1 July 2018 – TWUSUPER will provide more information about who to include in this count in early 2018.

Your pay cycles don't need to change. But when payments are made, they must be immediately reported to the ATO through your payroll software – for this reason, some employers may need to update their software. TWUSUPER understands that large payroll software providers are working with the ATO to ensure their software meets the new requirements by 1 July 2018.

With Single Touch Payroll, employees will see more up-to-date tax and super information through the ATO's myGov service. This includes their year-to-date pay and any tax withheld, and what super contributions their employer has to make.

TWUSUPER will provide further updates to help employers prepare for the introduction of Single Touch Payroll.

This information is of a general nature only and does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before acting on this information, you should consider its appropriateness having regard to your objectives, financial situation and needs. A copy of TWUSUPER's current Product Disclosure Statement should be obtained from us (by calling 1800 222 071 or visiting twusuper.com.au) and considered carefully before you make a decision in connection with TWUSUPER. TWU Nominees Pty Ltd ABN 67 002 835 412, AFSL 239163, is the trustee of TWUSUPER ABN 77 343 563 307 and the issuer of interests in it.

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)	Sept Qtr 2017	Per cent		1.8
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	30 Nov 2017	Million	24.756	2.0
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Aug 2017	\$m	26,051	2.8
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)	Sep 2017	Number	18,863	-0.4

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

Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2017	\$m	80,744	-2.7
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	2 months ending Aug 2017	Number	428,883	7.4
Employed persons (ABS)	Oct 2017	Million	12.301	2.9
Unemployment rate(ABS)	Oct 2017	Percentage	5.5	-0.2
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Sept Qtr 2017	Per cent		
All employees				2.0
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.8
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	Oct 2017	Number	99,106	1.0
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	9 months ending Sept 2017	Number	21,946	10.2
Vans (TIC)	9 months ending Sept 2017	Number	4,348	7.8
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	31 Oct 2017	Cents/litre incl. GST	123.9	

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