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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Road Safety Remuneration System – Where to go to for Further Advice

ARTIO NSW takes this opportunity to remind Members that as a result of the abolition of the Road Safety Remuneration System orders issued by the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal ceased to operate effective 12am, 21 April 2016.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has stated on its website that '(g)iven the ongoing concern and confusion surrounding the introduction of the (Contractor Driver Minimum Payments Road Safety Remuneration Order 2016) the Fair Work Ombudsman will not be seeking enforcement outcomes during the period it operated'.

According to the FWC, the 2016 Order operated 'from 4.15pm on 7 April 2016 till 12am on Thursday 21 April 2016'.

Members who have any concerns in relation to the period in which the orders issued by the Tribunal were in effect, can refer to the Fair Work Ombudsman's media release at www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/2016-media-releases/april-2016/20160415-rsro-order-2016, contact the Fair Work Ombudsman on 13 13 94 or via their website, www.fairwork.gov.au, or contact the ARTIO NSW office for further advice.

Funds Allocated to RSRT to be Reallocated to NHVR

In a joint statement issued on 18 April, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Darren Chester, and the Minister for Employment, Michaelia Cash, said that funds allocated to the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal will be redirected to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator.

'...it is the (NHVR) – a combined effort of the Australian Government and most state and territory governments – that has the expert knowledge and understanding needed to bring about improvements to the safety of the road transport industry,' Mr Chester said.

'The (NHVR) will be tasked with prioritising ways in which road safety can be materially improved,' Senator Cash said.

Reminder: NSW Work Diary Exemption Notice to Expire on 1 May

ARTIO NSW wishes to remind Members that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has determined that the NSW Work Diary Exemption Notice will expire on 1 May 2016, as previously advised.

The NHVR has stated that in doing so it hopes to strengthen the record keeping obligations for BFM and AFM in NSW and improve national consistency.

The NHVR says that by aligning NSW with other states and territories, the NHVR continues to work toward consistent and harmonised regulations across all states.

Drivers working under BFM or AFM who have not already done so, should purchase a *National Driver Work Diary*. These can be purchased from any Roads and Maritime Services motor registry or through other outlets in participating jurisdictions listed on the NHVR's website.

For more information please visit: <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/fatigue-management/work-diaries-and-record-keeping/work-diaries>

SafeWork NSW Issues Amended Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces

SafeWork NSW has issued an amended Code of Practice dealing with managing the risk of falls at workplaces.

This Code, *Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces*, as amended, which has been approved under the *Work Health and Safety Act (NSW)* (the Act), is a practical guide to achieving standards of health, safety and welfare required under NSW WHS law. This Code applies to all workplaces covered by the Act and accompanying Regulations where there is a risk of a fall from one level to another that is reasonably likely to cause injury. This includes loading or unloading a truck.

The Code provides practical guidance to persons conducting a business or undertaking. It includes information on a range of control measures to eliminate or minimise risks.

SafeWork NSW advises that in most cases following an approved code of practice would achieve compliance with work health and safety duties in the Act in relation to the subject matter of the Code. Under the Act and Regulations, codes of practice are admissible in court proceedings in NSW.

This Code can be obtained from: www.safework.nsw.gov.au.

ARTIO NSW Participates in SafeWork NSW Work Health and Safety Roadmap Forum

ARTIO NSW was invited by SafeWork NSW to participate in a work health and safety roadmap forum held on 5 April to help shape the strategic direction of workplace health and safety in NSW. This workshop was one of several held throughout NSW and brought together representatives of employer organisations and trade unions.

Key issues and themes to emerge from the forum included the role of technology and automation in workplaces, the ageing workforce, engagement of new employees on WHS issues, increasing working hours, increased use of contractors, increased focus on mental health and wellbeing, the impact of drugs on workplace health and safety, the impact of workplace change and disruption, professionalisation of safety management, more ethnically and culturally diverse workforces, engagement with small and medium sized businesses and issues related to regulatory overlap,

The next step in this process will be reworking the Roadmap to reflect the key issues and themes from across all the sessions in preparation for launch and publication. ARTIO NSW expects to be consulted further as the Roadmap is developed.

Noticeable Downward Trend in the Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index fell by 0.2 per cent in the March 2016 quarter, the largest quarterly fall since the December 2008 quarter, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The ABS said the fall in the CPI in the March 2016 quarter led to a reduction in the CPI for the year ending 31 March to 1.3 per cent. This compares to a CPI for the year ending 31 December of 1.7 per cent. This is lowest level for the annual rate of inflation since the June 2012 quarter.

The ABS said that the cost of automotive fuels, which is one of the basket of goods and services which contributes to the calculation of the CPI fell by 10 per cent in the March 2016 quarter.

There is a long standing bipartisan policy in Australia which aims to ensure inflation as measured by the CPI remains within a 2% to 3% band. Trends in CPI can play a role in the setting of official interest rates by the Reserve Bank of Australia. Other things being equal, a lower CPI increases the likelihood of a reduction in official interest rates and vice versa.

Minister Gay Announces Connected Technology Trial to Tackle Truck Congestion

The Minister for Roads, Duncan Gay, has announced the commencement of a trial to tackle congestion through the use of connected technology to reduce the number of times a truck stops at traffic lights. Mr Gay made the announcement at a Future Transport Summit held in Sydney on 18-19 April.

Mr Gay said that this connected technology trial 'will detect a heavy vehicle approaching traffic lights and provide more green time, which hopefully will show us how we can ease delays for all motorists across the whole network in the future.'

'Heavy vehicles take a long time to stop and start which can cause delays for all road users,' Mr Gay said.

Mr Gay said that the project is being delivered in partnership with Australian Technology Company Codha Wireless and will trial around 100 trucks using the latest Cooperative Intelligent Transport System technology which allows vehicles to 'talk' to road infrastructure.

He said this smart infrastructure will be installed on key freight routes in Sydney, including sections of Parramatta Road, Pennant Hills Road and King Georges Road.

Mr Gay said that this technology should improve travel times at more than 100 intersections across Sydney.

'The results of this project will inform the way we look at incorporating connected vehicle technology on other vehicles and is a key step towards making Sydney infrastructure-ready for connected and automated vehicles in the future,' Mr Gay said.

Mr Gay said congestion costs Sydney about \$5 billion per year.

Minister Chester Reduces Road User Charge

The Minister for Transport, Darren Chester, has used powers available to him under the Fuel Tax Act 2006 to reduce the truck fuel tax rate, also known as the road user charge from 26.14 cents per litre to 25.9 cents per litre from 1 July 2016.

The road user charge is imposed as a reduction in the fuel tax credits that trucking businesses can claim through Business Activity Statements.

This decision means the fuel tax credit rate for eligible heavy vehicles will increase from 13.36 cents per litre to 13.6 cents per litre from 1 July 2016.

***beyondblue's* Toolbox Training Package for All Workplaces**

beyondblue's 'Mental health in the workplace' toolbox talk training package is designed to equip anyone managing staff with the knowledge, skills and confidence to deliver mental health toolbox talks to their team. It aims to encourage conversations about mental health in the workplace, reduce workplace stigma and support staff who may be experiencing a mental health condition.

The training workshop covers three topics that team leaders and managers deliver to their staff in five-minute toolbox talk sessions (one for each topic). The topics are:

1. About anxiety and depression.
2. The relationship between the workplace and mental health.
3. Taking action to support someone at work

The training uses videos, case studies and individual and group activities to guide learning.

According to *beyondblue*:

- One in five Australian workers is currently experiencing a mental health condition.
- Untreated depression results in over 6 million working days lost each year in Australia.
- According to PriceWaterhouse Coopers, \$2.30 is the average return on investment for every dollar invested in creating a mentally healthy workplace.

For further information on *beyondblue*'s 'Mental health in the workplace' toolbox talk training package visit www.headsup.org.au/training-and-resources/toolbox-talk-training-packages/toolbox-talk-training-package-for-all-workplaces.

ATO Simplifies Fuel Tax Credit Claims

The Australian Taxation Office has issued a Fuel Tax Credit Calculator to assist transport operators to calculate fuel tax entitlements for a Business Activity Statement for the current BAS period and to correct entitlements related to previous BAS periods.

In order to calculate fuel tax credits for BAS, transport operators need to be registered for fuel tax credits and the GST, have kept appropriate records to support a claim, know the total amount of fuel acquired during the BAS period and know either the eligible amount of fuel used for each fuel type in the business or the eligible percentage of total fuel used for each fuel type used in the in the business.

The Fuel Tax Credit Calculator includes different rates for fuel acquired both before and after any Fuel Tax Credit rate variation.

Further information is available at: <https://expertsystems.ato.gov.au/scripts/net/FTCCalc/default.aspx?PID=68>.

ACCC Unfair Contract Terms Webinar Now Available

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has now released its business to business (B2B) unfair contract terms webinar. This webinar covers amendments to unfair contract terms which are designed to offer more protection to small business and which take effect from 12 November 2016. It can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zc_LjLPYcw.

This 50-minute video covers a broad range of B2B unfair contract terms issues. This webinar offers advice to a small business which has either received a standard form contract on a 'take it or leave it' basis, or offers contracts to small businesses on a 'take it or leave it' basis.

Further information on changes to unfair contract terms law is available from www.accc.gov.au/uct.

NHVR to Conduct Heavy Vehicle Fleet Health Check

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has started consultations to assess the health of Australia's 520,000-strong heavy vehicle fleet.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said information had been released to each state and territory to measure the roadworthiness of heavy vehicles later this year.

'For the first time in Australia, we'll be conducting a national survey of heavy vehicle roadworthiness using trained inspectors to gather consistent safety information,' Mr Petrocchio said.

'Different data is currently compiled by each state and territory which means that the roadworthiness of heavy vehicles nationally is unclear. It's a fundamental roadblock to understanding the safety of the fleet and to achieving national consistency.

'The National Roadworthy Baseline Survey is on track to roll out in August and September and we'll be speaking to the industry and government in the coming months to discuss the impacts.

The survey will sample approximately 9000 heavy vehicles, including rigid trucks, articulated, B-double and road train combinations, buses and plant equipment.

Inspections will be conducted by authorised officers at roadside check points and in depots throughout Australia. Each vehicle will have a comprehensive visual inspection, expected to take up to 45 minutes.

'For the first time all heavy vehicle inspections will rely on a consistent inspection manual, also due to be adopted nationally in the coming months,' Mr Petrocitto said.

'This health check of the heavy vehicle fleet is an important building block to a nationally consistent inspection system.'

Further information will be available at: www.nhvr.gov.au.

TWUSUPER Super News April 2016

SuperStream deadline approaches

From 1 July 2016 every employer must be SuperStream compliant, meaning no more cheques, paper instructions, or email instructions when making super contributions. It also means potential penalties from the ATO.

TWUSUPER has been helping businesses get SuperStream compliant for over two years now, and we can help your business too. This includes providing free access – through TWUSUPER's secure Employer Access site – to a super clearing house* that allows you to pay all your employees' super with a single login and one payment.

If you're not yet SuperStream compliant (or aren't sure):

- call TWUSUPER on 1800 241 877 8am to 8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays, or
- register for Employer Access by visiting july1.twusuper.com.au (if you use Employer Access to make contributions, you're automatically SuperStream compliant).

* SCH Online is a financial product operated by The Superannuation Clearing House Pty Limited (Authorised Representative Number 290290) (TSCH), an authorised representative of Pacific Custodians Pty Limited (Australian Financial Services Licence Number 295142) (Pacific Custodians).

Super payments due 28 April

By law, employers must pay Super Guarantee payments of at least 9.5% to eligible employees at least four times a year. The ATO can apply the Super Guarantee Charge if payments are not made by the quarterly deadlines.

Quarter	Payment date
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1 January to 31 March

28 April

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Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	% Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2015	\$m	415,021	2.8
CPI (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2016	Per cent		1.3
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	2.00	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2015	Number	23,860	1.3
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Feb 2016	\$m	24,873	3.7
Actual New Capital Expenditure (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2015	\$m	31,302	-17.7
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Dec 2015	\$m	154,304	0.0
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Feb 2016	Number	18,025	-10.5
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Dec 2015	\$m	83,133	-7.9
Employed persons (ABS)	Mar 2016	Million	11,910	2.2
Unemployed persons (ABS)	Mar 2016	Percentage	5.8	-0.4
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2015	Per cent		
All employees				2.1
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.0
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	Mar 2016	Number	98,564	4.0
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	2 months ending Feb 2016	Number	3220	5.0
Vans (TIC)	2 months ending Feb 2016	Number	886	35.5
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	As at 28 Apr 2016	Cents per litre	99.8	

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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.