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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

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ARTIO NSW Christmas/New Year Office Arrangements

The ARTIO NSW office will close on Wednesday, 20 December and reopen on Monday, 8 January. However, if you require assistance or advice, please contact Hugh McMaster, Secretary/Treasurer, telephone 0412 880861, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au at any time. On behalf of the ARTIO NSW Committee have a happy and safe Christmas.

ARTIO NSW 2017-18 Membership Subscriptions

The ARTIO NSW secretariat reminds Members that subscriptions for the second half of 2017-18, that is 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2018, have been sent out in the past few days.

Thank you to those Members who have already paid their subscription for the second half of the year.

For Members who have yet to pay, prompt settlement is greatly appreciated.

New Turnbull Ministry

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, announced details of a Cabinet reshuffle on 19 December. Portfolio responsibilities relevant to ARTIO NSW Members are:

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport – Barnaby Joyce.
 - Assisting Minister Joyce will be the Minister for Infrastructure and Cities – Paul Fletcher.
 - Minister for Jobs and Innovation – Michaelia Cash
 - Assisting Minister Cash will be the Minister for Small and Family Business, Workplace and Deregulation – Craig Laundry.
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Transport Ministers Endorse New Load Restraint Guide

Adapted from media release, National Transport Commission, 6 December, 2017

Australia's Transport Ministers have endorsed what the National Transport Commission says is an improved Load Restraint Guide and a complementary guide specifically for light vehicles. The Guide will be available from early 2018.

NTC Chief Executive, Paul Retter said that the updated Guide would provide drivers, operators and other participants in the chain of responsibility with practical advice on how to safely transport a load.

'Given the last edition was published in 2004, it was crucial that we updated the guide to better cover the range of loads, vehicles and restraint equipment in use today. The update will contribute to increased safety and efficiency on our roads,' Mr Retter said.

Mr Retter said that for the first time a version focusing on light vehicles has been available for vehicles under 4.5 tonnes GVM.

Mr Retter said the new guides will be available on the NTC's website from early next year.

He also confirmed that ministers approved the NTC's recommendation to retain the current load restraint performance standards.

Further information on the updated load restraint guide is available from the NTC website at <http://www.ntc.gov.au/current-projects/load-restraint-guide-maintenance>.

New Legislation in NSW Aims to Combat Building Fire Safety Risks

The NSW Government has passed legislation prohibiting the use of a building product in a building if there are reasonable grounds to satisfy relevant enforcement authorities (authorities) that its use is unsafe.

Under the *Building Products (Safety) Act 2017* (the Act), prohibition powers enable these authorities to identify buildings in which building products have been used in a way that is prohibited, including buildings in which building products were used before the prohibition was imposed.

The Act also confers on local councils or other authorities to require the use of the relevant building product in the building to be rectified by giving them power to order that the safety risk posed by the use of the building product in the building be eliminated or minimised.

This legislation was proposed in response to the Grenfell Tower fire in London earlier this year, where it is thought that external cladding attached to the building may have accelerated the spread of fire in the building.

In introducing this legislation into the parliament, the Minister for Better Regulation, Matt Kean, said that once a building product use ban is in force, it will be an offence to continue to use that product, or represent its suitability for use in contravention of the ban. He said contravention of a building product use ban will be an offence with a maximum penalty of \$1.1 million for a corporation, or \$220,000 or two years imprisonment, or both, for an individual. Where a person continues to contravene a building product use ban in the case of a corporation a further \$110,000 can be applied for each day the offence continues, while for an individual a further \$44,000 can be applied for each day the offence continues.

New Campaign to Save Country Lives on Country Roads

Adapted from joint media release, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro, and Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, Melinda Pavey, 4 December, 2017

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW and Member John Barilaro, and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight Melinda Pavey, have unveiled the first comprehensive road safety education campaign specifically targeting people living in regional NSW.

In what has been acknowledged by the two ministers as an emotive and powerful campaign the stories of real crash victims from the bush are being used to send a strong message that too many country people are dying on the state's roads.

"If you live in the country you are four times more likely to die in a road crash than if you live in a metropolitan area. It's simply unacceptable," Mr Barilaro said.

"Last year we lost 252 people on country roads. That's one third of our population making up two thirds of our road toll," Mrs Pavey said.

Mrs Pavey said deaths in the country that involve someone driving too fast, having too much to drink, falling asleep behind the wheel or not wearing a seatbelt are way above the rest of the state.

NHVR Issues New Vehicle Standards Guide for Warning Signs

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has released Vehicle Standards Guide VSG 19 which provides advice to heavy vehicle owners and operators about the requirements and specifications for vehicle warning signs.

Under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), including notices and permits issued under the Law, certain longer combinations of vehicle are required to be fitted with either a 'Long Vehicle' or 'Road Train' warning sign.

The purpose of these signs is to ensure that other road users are aware that a combination is longer than they would normally encounter so that they can adjust their driving behaviour, for example by allowing more time when overtaking.

Historically, it has been a requirement that these signs are made from a rigid material, such as sheet steel. To provide more options to industry, the NHVR has published the *National Heavy Vehicle*

Standards (Warning Sign) Exemption Notice 2017 which allows operators to use warning signs made from flexible material. A copy of the exemption notice is available at: <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/notices-and-permit-based-schemes/national-notices>. A copy of VSG 19 is available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201712-0736-vsg19-vehicle-warning-signs.pdf>.

SafeWork NSW Issues Safety Alert Related to Vehicles

SafeWork NSW has issued a safety alert which reminds persons working with vehicles of the risks associated with the uncontrolled movement of vehicles.

Each year people suffer serious and fatal injuries in NSW due to incidents involving the uncontrolled movement (roll away) of vehicles, including cars, trucks, buses, vans, forklifts, tractors, mobile cranes etc. In most incidents the operator was not in the driver's seat at the time of the incident.

Further information is available from:

- Working with or around mobile plant – <http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/news/safety-alert/squiz-test-52>.
 - Workplace traffic management guidance material – <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/workplace-traffic-management-guidance-material>.
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14 Consecutive Months of Employment Growth

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

Labour force figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the number of jobs in Australia has increased for the 14th straight month – the longest consecutive run of jobs growth since 1994, according to the Minister for Employment, Michaelia Cash.

Senator Cash said there are now 383,300 more Australians in work than a year ago and almost 80 per cent of these new jobs are full time jobs.

Senator Cash said total employment stands at a record high of 12,403,000.

NSW Freight and Ports Plan Released

Transport for NSW has released *NSW Freight and Ports Plan* which it says will support its *Future Transport 2056 Strategy* and will provide direction to business and industry for managing and investing in freight into the future.

The plan recognises that future economic growth and prosperity in NSW is built on the safe, efficient and reliable movement of goods. It says that delivering a more efficient transport system that facilitates this reliably is fundamental to the economic prosperity of the State, and achieving savings for consumers of those goods.

The plan underpins the creation of future transport system that meets the needs of our freight customers by:

- Continuing to invest in road and rail infrastructure to provide greater network access.
- Facilitating the introduction of new technologies to drive network efficiencies.
- Utilising dynamic network management that prioritises vehicles depending on productivity, type of use and time of day.

- Reforming road, rail and maritime regulations to harmonise cross border regulatory regimes that will drive economic efficiencies.
- Investing and managing infrastructure that separates freight from passenger movements in congested corridors - especially near trade gateways.

This plan and other plans are central to delivering strategic priorities for NSW, including the Premier's stated priorities:

- Grow the economy, accelerating major project assessments and delivering strong budgets
- Build infrastructure and deliver better services, improving road travel, reliability and on time public transport running.
- Create safer communities, reducing road fatalities by at least 30% by 2021 based on 2010 levels.

Industry Volunteers Sought for Road User Pricing Reform Trials

Adapted from media release, Minister for Infrastructure, Paul Fletcher, 15 December, 2017

The Turnbull Government is working with states and territories to investigate reforms to the way that heavy vehicles are charged to use roads according to the Minister for Infrastructure, Paul Fletcher.

Mr Fletcher said the Government intends to invite the industry to participate in a National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot. He said this will see selected participants being involved in a pilot program to test the replacement of registration fees and the Road User Charge, with a national direct user charge for the vehicles participating in the pilot.

Mr Fletcher said the pilot will run initially through to 2020 and will allow transport operators to test, influence and shape reform.

He said the first two stages of the pilot will be research-based, and focus on working with the industry to develop the options to pilot. It will not involve participants paying additional or alternative charges as part of the trial.

The Government will also be establishing a business case program for location-based trials of distance charging for heavy vehicles which will commence in 2018–19.

Under this trial Mr Fletcher said the Turnbull Government would fund business cases for trials in specific geographical regions—where there may be an appetite by the industry to agree to additional per kilometre charges, over and above what they are paying through the fuel excise system, where those charges are linked to specific benefits to the industry.

NTC to Review Telematics for Regulatory Purposes

Adapted from media release, National Transport Commission, 5 December, 2017

The National Transport Commission will review the use of telematics for regulatory purposes across the transport sector in order to find ways to encourage further take-up and realise safety and productivity benefits.

NTC Chief Executive, Paul Retter, said that the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) has directed the NTC to consult with stakeholders to help identify opportunities to more effectively harness the benefits of emerging technology solutions.

"Telematics can boost productivity and safety by making it easier to share more accurate data between vehicles, drivers, operators and third parties," Mr Retter said.

“We are already seeing telematics technology being used by operators for commercial and internal compliance purposes in the freight sector.

However, Mr Retter said the level of uptake is not as strong as it could be.

“This review will help us to better understand why this is and how we may be able to improve uptake using current systems at a minimum cost to operators.”

Mr Retter said the review will focus on telematics regulated by the Heavy Vehicle National Law including the Intelligent Access Program and the Electronic Work Diary, in addition to telematics used for regulatory purposes in taxis, buses and alcohol interlocks.

He said a report will be provided to TISOC in March 2018.

Flexible Electronic Work Diaries a Step Closer

Adapted from media release, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 18 December, 2017

Heavy vehicle drivers will soon have the option to have work and rest hours recorded on an electronic device following the release of the Policy Framework and Standards for Electronic Work Diaries (EWDs) according to NHVR Safety and Productivity Executive Director Geoff Casey.

Mr Casey said EWDs were a step closer with the release of the NHVR’s EWD Policy Framework and Standards for comment until 30 January 2018.

“The EWD Policy Framework and Standards will allow the NHVR to approve electronic recording systems as an alternative to the traditional written work diary, which will be a win for the heavy vehicle industry and a boost for safety,” Mr Casey said.

“Under the EWD Policy Framework and Standards, an EWD records the work and rest activity declared by the driver and drivers can move between employers and record keepers using different approved systems.

“The standards also allow drivers to record non-driving work hours, declare the location of the change of activity and confirm records when they are submitted.

“Importantly the EWD Policy Framework and Standards will allow drivers to focus on driving and where required, transport operators can integrate this information into their business for scheduling and planning.

“All EWDs will have a standard graphical view of work and rest information, similar to the daily sheet in the written work diary and will have the potential to alert drivers when a rest break is required.”

Mr Casey said that from 18 December technology providers and transport operators will be able to register their intent to develop an electronic recording system for assessment and approval using a Notice of Intent form available on the NHVR website.

“Transport operators that have systems provided by existing technology providers do not have to register with the NHVR directly,” he said.

“Operators who have already developed and are utilising electronic recording systems will also be able to apply to have these systems approved.”

The NHVR proposes to approve the EWD Policy Framework and EWD Standards in February or March next year.

Infrastructure Update

Significant infrastructure milestones achieved since 1 December include:

- Opening of the first 14 km of the 20-kilometre Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads section of the Pacific Highway upgrade. This includes by-passes of both Macksville and Nambucca Heads.
- New westbound on-ramp to the M4 Motorway from Parramatta Rd, North Strathfield.
- Completion of intersection improvements Hume Hwy and Bigge St, Warwick Farm.

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

- Boundary St Babbage Rd and Warringah Rd between Pacific Hwy, Roseville and Roseville Bridge, Roseville from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays from 22 January.
 - Carlingford Rd from Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford, to Beecroft Rd Epping from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays from 22 January.
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Road Works Update

The following road works may impact your operations:

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	Work Times
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	
Ashfield	Intersection Frederick and Church Sts	19/11-22/12/17 7/1-14/1/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Auburn	Parramatta Rd from Duck St to Harbord St	14/12-22/12/17 7/1-29/3/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Banksmeadow	Botany Rd from Stephen Rd to Foreshore Rd	26/11/17-2/3/18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Bondi	Bondi Rd from Ocean St to Imperial Ave	19/11-22/12/17 7/1-14/1/18	9pm-5am Sun-Thu
Caringbah	Intersection Captain Cook Dr, Taren Point Rd and The Boulevarde	14/12-22/12/17 7/1-4/3/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Carlingford-Epping	Carlingford Rd from Pennant Hills Rd to Beecroft Rd	22/1/18-4/2/18	8pm-5am Mon-Sun
Greenacre	Boronia Rd.	10/12-22/12/17 7/1-14/1/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Homebush to Haberfield	Various locations on Parramatta Rd. Includes lane closures and road closures at some intersections.	Till early 2019	
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.	Till early 2020	

	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.		
Rose Bay	New South Head Rd, from William St to O’Sullivan Rd	19/11-22/12/17 7/1-21/1/18	9pm-5am Sun-Thu
Roseville	Boundary St Babbage Rd and Warringah Rd between Pacific Hwy and Roseville Bridge,	22/1/18-4/2/18	8pm-5am Mon-Sun
Rozelle-Drummoyne	Victoria Rd from Cary St to The Crescent	26/11/17-2/3/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rozelle	Victoria Rd from Robert St to Byrnes St	19/11-22/12/17 7/1-14/1/18	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rozelle	City West Link from Balmain Rd to Catherine St	19/11-22/12/17 7/1-14/1/18	9pm-4am Sun-Thu
Woolooware	Kingsway from Gannons Rd to Trickett Rd	7/1/18-2/2/18	9pm-5am

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2017	\$m	430,571	2.4
CPI (ABS)	Sept Qtr 2017	Per cent		1.8
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	20 Dec 2017	Million	24.773	1.9
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Oct 2017	\$m	25,973	1.6
Actual New Capital Expenditure (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2017	\$m	29,363	2.1
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Sep 2017	\$m	156,946	1.5
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Oct 2017	Number	19,111	4.2
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Sep 2017	\$m	81,854	0.1
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	4 months ending Oct 2017	Number	887,536	9.6
Employed persons (ABS)	Nov 2017	Million	12.380	3.1
Unemployment rate(ABS)	Nov 2017	Percentage	5.4	-0.3
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Sept Qtr 2017	Per cent		
All employees				2.0
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.8
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	Nov 2017	Number	98,690	1.1
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	10 months ending Oct 2017	Number	24,831	10.7

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

Vans (TIC)	10 months ending Oct 2017	Number	4,873	8.1
AIP Terminal Gate Price- Diesel-Sydney	20 Dec 2017	Cents/litre incl. GST	124.3	

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