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Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Amendments to Heavy Vehicle Laws Effective 1 July

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced that some changes to heavy vehicle laws will take effect from 1 July. Changes include the introduction of self-clearing defect notices as an additional type of defect notice for defective vehicles that do not pose a safety risk or if the number plate is obscured.

The NHVR says that self-clearing defects do not require vehicle inspection by an approved person for the purpose of having the defect cleared.

An offence has also been created for failing to display and maintain National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme labels under Mass Management and Maintenance Management.

The NHVR says that these changes aim to improve roadside compliance activity.

Heavy Vehicle Charges Effective 1 July

The Transport and Infrastructure Council, which comprises Commonwealth, State and Territory ministers with responsibility for transport and roads has resolved that heavy vehicle charges in aggregate will remain frozen at the current level in 2017-18. However, because charges will be applied across a larger fleet, there will be reductions at the individual vehicle level.

From 1 July 2017, the Road User Charge will decrease to 25.8 cents/litre from 25.9 cents/litre. Registration charges will decrease by slightly over 1.5 per cent.

The following table shows changes in registration for some commonly used vehicles and combinations in 2016-17 and 2017-18:

Vehicle Type	Registration 2016-17 (\$)	Registration 2017-18 (\$)
2 axle rigid up to 12 tonnes	620	611
2 axle rigid over 12 tonnes	995	980
3 axle rigid up to 16.5 tonnes	970	955
3 axle rigid over 16.5 tonnes	1167	1148
4 axle rigid up to 20 tonnes	986	970
4 axle rigid over 20 tonnes	1189	1170
4 axle truck and dog up to 42.5 tonnes	2327	2291
6 axle truck and dog up to 42.5 tonnes	3128	3076
6 axle truck and dog over 42.5 tonnes	11646	11456
7 axle truck and dog over 42.5 tonnes	12267	12070
6 axle semi-trailer	6334	6232
9 axle B-Double	15016	14776
Double road train	15072	14832
Triple road train	16868	16601

2017-18 registration charges for these and other heavy vehicle types used in the industry can be viewed on the National Transport Commission website, www.ntc.gov.au.

WestConnex Update – Tolls to Apply on New Section of the M4 from 15 August

Part of the first section of WestConnex, an upgraded M4 between Auburn and Church St Parramatta has been completed. The upgraded section of the M4 between Homebush Bay Drive and Auburn is scheduled to open on 15 July 2017. A one month toll free period will then apply to the full length of this upgraded section of motorway.

This means tolls will apply from August. They will be distance based as is the case with the M7 Motorway. Tolls for heavy vehicles will range between \$5.30 and \$13.67. A toll calculator for both heavy and light vehicles can be found at www.westconnex.com.au/using-westconnex/tolls.

NHVR Fees and Charges Effective 1 July

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced that the cost of an Access permit will increase from \$70 to \$72 effective 1 July 2017. All other fees and charges will not change. Penalties will

increase in line with movements in the Consumer Price Index. Further information on NHVR fees and charges is available from www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/fee-schedule.

ATO to Simplify BAS Reporting for Small Businesses from 1 July

The Australian Taxation Office has announced that GST reporting for small businesses will be simplified for businesses with an annual GST turnover of less than \$10 million. The ATO says small businesses will be transitioned to their new Simpler BAS reporting from 1 July 2017.

NTC Seeks Feedback to Improve Load Restraint Guide

The National Transport Commission is seeking feedback on the revised version of its Load Restraint Guide. The Guide is designed to provide drivers, operators and other supply chain participants in the chain of responsibility with practical advice on how to transport a load.

Acting Chief Executive, Dr Geoff Allan, said the NTC is seeking feedback on the draft Guide to ensure it is clear, user friendly and based on the latest available evidence.

Dr Allan said feedback received indicates that the biggest issue with the current Guide is that it would be easier to comply if it was easier to understand.

He said it was important to make sure the new Guide was accurate, up to date and reflected practices that had developed since the last edition was published in 2004.

The draft Guide is available on the NTC website, www.ntc.gov.au. Consultation is open until 5pm, 4 August 2017.

Once the NTC has considered feedback it will make final recommendations to transport and roads ministers comprising the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting in November. Following that, the guide will be handed to the NHVR to implement and maintain.

NTC Proposes No Change to Current Load Restraint Performance Standards

Dr Allan also said that after conducting a technical review, the NTC determined that no changes are proposed to the current load restraint performance standards for heavy vehicles. This means the force that is required to be applied to keep a load on the heavy vehicle will not change.

'Over the past 12 years, the power of vehicles and their braking ability has improved significantly and this places greater stress on the load restraints,' Dr Allan said.

'However, our technical advice is that we need to increase the force required to restrain a load in the forward direction for some light vehicles from 0.8g to 1.0g.'

New Study Finds 40km/h Speed Zones Keep Us Safe

Adapted from media release, the Hon Melissa Pavey, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, 28 June 2017

Research undertaken by the NSW Centre for Road Safety between 2005 and 2015 found there was a 33 per cent reduction in crashes causing deaths and serious injuries, according to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, Melissa Pavey where 40km/h speed zones have been introduced.

Ms Pavey said that the Centre for Road Safety will work with Roads and Maritime Services to focus on locations with high pedestrian activity, including railway stations, bus interchanges and shopping centres.

Ms Pavey said that 74 pedestrians were killed on NSW roads in 2016, an increase of 13 when compared to 2015.

Ms Pavey said that '...a vehicle that hits a pedestrian at 50km/h is twice as likely to cause a fatality as the same vehicle travelling at 40km/h, which is why speed limits in high pedestrian areas are so important'.

Ms Pavey said that in permanent 40km/h speed limits zones the number of people killed fell from 12 in 2005 to one in 2015 while the number of people seriously injured fell from 269 to 203.

National Heavy Vehicle Fleet Gets a Health Tick

Adapted from joint media release, The Hon Darren Chester, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and Sal Petrocitto, CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 2 June 2017

Australia's first national heavy vehicle health check shows the trucking industry has a 'sound performance, in maintaining heavy vehicles although there is some room for improvement.

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Darren Chester, said results from the National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey would provide further focus on inspection programs and help in measuring improvements in the condition of the heavy vehicle fleet.

Mr Chester said the survey, which was conducted between August and October last year, covered 7,130 heavy vehicles and 11,066 heavy vehicle units. He said it will help the NHVR to develop a risk-based approach to inspection of components, systems, vehicles and operators as well as a more consistent approach to inspection.

Findings included:

- Younger vehicles were five times less likely to have a major non-conformity than vehicles 10 years and older and 11 times less likely than 13-year-old vehicles.
- 11 per cent of hauling units and 14 per cent of trailers recorded a major non-conformity.
- 147 vehicle units were grounded, or 1.3 per cent of units inspected.
- Brakes were the component with the highest incidence of non-conformity, followed by steering and suspension, lights and reflectors, engines, drivelines and exhausts.

NHVR CEO, Sal Petrocitto, said the NHVR wanted to understand the rate of major non-conformity. He also said the rate of major non-conformity in older vehicles will be an area of focus.

Further information about the survey results and the full survey report can be found at www.nhvr.gov.au/nrbs.

NSW 2017-18 Budget – Reaping the Benefits, says Treasurer

In handing down the NSW Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, says the people of NSW are reaping the rewards of the extensive asset privatisation program underway in the past few years which has enabled

the NSW Government to forecast a succession of budget surpluses while also increasing infrastructure spending on roads, public transport and in other areas.

The treasurer forecast a surplus of \$2.7 billion in 2017-18 and said that the NSW Government now has negative net debt worth \$7.8 billion which would enable it to create a \$15 billion investment fund, which would hold cash received from privatization sales for spending in the medium term.

Key Budget aggregates are:

Indicator	2016-17 (%)	2017-18 (%)
Real State Final Demand	3.25	3.5
Gross State Product	2.75	3.0
Employment	0.75	1.75
Unemployment	5.0	5.0
Sydney Consumer Price Index	2.0	2.25
Wage Price Index	2.0	2.25
Population Growth	1.5	1.5

NSW 2017-18 Budget – Insurance Duty Exemptions for Small Business

Measures to reduce the cost of insurance have been announced in the 2017-18 NSW Budget. From 1 January 2018, small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2 million per annum will be exempt from the payment of insurance duty on commercial vehicle insurance, professional indemnity insurance as well as product and public liability insurance. Current duties payable range from 5 per cent to 9 per cent of the insurance premium.

According to the 2017-18 NSW Budget Statement, these measures are designed to encourage small businesses to increase the level of their insurance cover.

NSW 2017-18 Budget – Overview of Road Funding Commitments

The 2017-18 NSW Budget has made the following allocations to improvements in the road network:

- Western Sydney:
 - Continue construction of WestConnex - \$3.2b.
 - Continue upgrading The Northern Road - \$485.2m.
 - Continue upgrading Bringelly Road - \$99.3m.
 - Continue upgrading Schofields Road - \$43.9m.
 - Widening Narellan Rd from Camden Valley Way to Denham Court Rd - \$26.9m.
 - Campbelltown Rd upgrade from Camden Valley Way to Denham Court Rd - \$17.5m.
 - Memorial Ave - Old Windsor Rd to Windsor Rd - \$16m.
 - Jane St and Mulgoa Rd upgrade - \$13.4m.
 - Traffic improvements at Riverstone - \$11.1m.
 - Widening Appin Rd and intersection upgrades at Menangle Park - \$45m.
 - Planning for the M12 Motorway – \$21m.
- Southern Sydney:
 - Planning for the WestConnex Southern F6 extension - \$14.1m.
 - Planning for upgrade of King Georges Rd between Connells Point Rd and Stoney Creek Rd - \$2.9m.
 - Planning for upgrade of Heathcote Rd between Infantry Pde Hammondville and The Avenue, Pleasure Point – \$2.9M.

- Commence construction of traffic improvements at the Princes Hwy/President Ave intersection - \$1.5m.
- Northern Sydney:
 - Continue construction of NorthConnex - \$83.1m.
 - Continue road upgrades around Frenchs Forest hospital - \$137m.
- Eastern Sydney – continued road upgrades around Sydney airport - \$117m.
- Illawarra and South Coast:
 - Commencement of Berry to Bomaderry upgrade on the Princes Hwy - \$19m.
 - Completion of the Foxground to Berry bypass on the Princes Hwy - \$35m.
 - Completion of Burrill Lake replacement bridge near Ulladulla on the Princes Hwy - \$20m.
 - Progress on the Dignam’s Creek upgrade near Narooma - on the Princes Hwy \$23.5m.
 - Planning for the replacement of bridges over the Clyde River at Bateman’s Bay and Nelligen - \$15.9m.
- Hunter and Central Coast:
 - Progress on widening the Pacific Motorway between Wyong Rd and Doyalson Link Rd - \$93.7m.
 - Commence widening of the Pacific Motorway between the Kariong and Somersby interchanges – \$31m.
- Western NSW:
 - Complete realignment of the Mitchell Highway at Guanna Hill near Molong - \$9.5m.
 - New bridge on the Cobb Hwy over the Murray River between Echuca and Moama - \$7m.
- Southern NSW:
 - Commencement of construction of the Ellertion Dr extension, Queanbeyan - \$24.4m.
 - Upgrades to Gocup Rd between Tumut and Gundagai - \$22.8m.
- Northern NSW:
 - Continue construction of the bridge over the Clarence River at Grafton - \$84m.
 - A share of \$1.5b to complete Pacific Highway projects between Port Macquarie and Glenugie, to continue projects between Glenugie and Ballina as well as planning for the Coffs Harbour bypass.
 - New England Hwy upgrades, including commencement of Scone bypass - \$79m.

Ministers Approve ‘Improved’ Investigation and Enforcement Powers for Authorised Officers While Aligning Road Law More Closely with WHS Law

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

Police and other authorised officers will have ‘improved’ powers to investigate breaches of the National Heavy Vehicle Law and, where appropriate, impose sanctions, under changes approved by Australia’s transport ministers at their meeting on 19 May.

NTC CEO, Paul Retter, said that while the ‘overwhelming majority’ of transport companies comply with the law ‘a small number of people, whether they be operators, drivers or other parties in the chain of responsibility, who try to cheat the system’. He said these changes ‘will help the authorities crack down on illegal practices that put people’s safety at risk’.

Mr Retter said the changes to policy ‘have been designed to make the rules easier to comply with y more closely aligning them to existing workplace safety regulations’.

Changes include giving authorised officers the power to issue prohibition notices to address an immediate safety risk as well as the ability to require that a whole fleet or class of vehicles be inspected

if authorities have a reasonable belief that they are defective. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator will be given the power to publish the outcomes of successful prosecutions. Courts will be given powers to issue injunctions to address ongoing safety risks.

The new powers are subject to a draft bill which will be developed for submission to transport ministers for their consideration at their November 2017 meeting.

Report Finds Workplace Gender Equality Still a Blind Spot for Men

Adapted from article, Workplace Express, 15 June 2017

A new report from Diversity Council Australia on male engagement in gender equality says men are less likely to recognize sexism in the workplace. The report, *Men Make a Difference: Engaging Men on Gender Equality*, says that the most significant barrier to engagement is that many men 'simply do not recognise, or indeed defend' inequalities that have been shaped themselves in a gender-unequal world.

The report says that men need in the first place to recognise sexism before that can confront it. At the same time, the report says that men broadly support gender equality although they are more likely to take discrimination for granted, fear being judged if they speak up and overestimate the degree with which male peers agree with sexism.

To increase engagement and awareness, the report recommends that organisations develop strategies that target all important areas of equality and incorporate assessments and audits. Recommendations include:

- A gender-based work and caring audit to identify caring responsibilities and their impact on workplace opportunities.
- A gender audit of contributions to formal and informal decision-making processes and outcomes.
- Opportunities for men and women to apply for or be considered for all roles.
- Gender pay equity analyses, including examination of gender differences in job security and structural inequalities in pay.
- Measures of the quality of inter-personal relationships between women and men.

To bridge the connection between work and home, the report says that an employer should 'be explicit' that it 'understands and places priority on both women and men as caregivers, ensuring equal access to flexible work and providing visible support to men as caregivers.'

DCA chief executive, Lisa Annese, said that 'men need to understand they will benefit from equality as well as women'.

The report also recommends that gender equality teams are comprised of both men and women and that it involves men at all organisational levels from a diversity of cultural backgrounds and sexual orientations.

DCA is the independent, not-for-profit workplace diversity advisor to business in Australia. A copy of the report is available from www.dca.org.au/search/node/men%20make%20a%20difference.

Upgraded Mt Ousley Heavy Vehicle Rest Area Now Open

Adapted from joint media release, The Hon Darren Chester, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Hon Melissa Pavey, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and Gareth Ward, Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra, 16 June 2017

The upgraded Mt Ousley northbound heavy vehicle rest area is now officially open.

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Darren Chester, said the upgraded rest area would help manage fatigue for freight operators.

Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, said the rest area near the intersection of the M1 Princes Motorway and Clive Bissell Drive will provide 10 heavy vehicle parking spaces.

Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, Melissa Pavey, said the upgrade would support 3,500 heavy vehicles that use this section of the M1 Princes Motorway each day.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra, Gareth Ward, said the temporary northbound heavy vehicle rest area on the M1 Princes Motorway near Waterfall will now close.

Fair Work Ombudsman to Investigate Uber's Compliance with Workplace Laws

Adapted from articles, Workplace Express, 28 June 2017, Australian Financial Review, 30 June 2017

The Fair Work Ombudsman has announced that it is investigating whether the terms whereby Uber engages drivers complies with Australian workplace laws. While this investigation relates to the passenger sector of the transport industry, it may test the legal status of gig economy employment arrangements and have implications in the courier sector of the industry.

Earlier this year, the Federal Court determined that Uber provided 'taxi travel' and was required to collect and pay GST.

In another development, the Rideshare Drivers Association of Australia has confirmed that it has filed unfair dismissal claims with the Fair Work Commission despite the lack of clarity round the status of Uber drivers as employees. A media report says one claim has been settled for an undisclosed sum.

TWUSUPER Super News June 2017

SG Payment due 28 July

Super Guarantee (SG) payments for the quarter 1 April to 30 June need to be received by TWUSUPER by 28 July. 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 222 071 between 8am and 8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays.

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Help improve employee wellness with TWUSUPER

About a quarter of employees have been distracted at work due to financial worries, but they are unlikely to share these concerns with their employer. TWUSUPER's complimentary workplace education sessions are tailored specifically to your needs and a session can involve as few as 5 employees. The

sessions last less than an hour and can be timed to fit into your schedule.

For further details, please contact call the Employer Service team on **1800 241 877** 8am-8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays.

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Super changes from 1 July 2017

There are a number of changes occurring to super that may affect your employees.

Transition to Retirement

From 1 July 2017, the investment earnings in a Transition to Retirement account will be taxed at up to 15% (and no longer tax free).

Paying super to a spouse

From 1 July 2017, the spouse tax offset will be available to more couples so they can support each other in saving for retirement. This measure provides a tax offset of up to \$540 contributions to a spouse's super where their income is \$40,000 or lower.

Before-tax contributions

- From 1 July 2017, an annual cap of \$25,000 will apply to before-tax contributions for everyone. This amount includes the super guarantee paid by employees.
- From 1 July 2017, people earning over \$250,000 will pay an additional 15% tax on their before tax contributions.

After-tax contributions

- From 1 July 2017, an annual cap of \$100,000 will apply to after-tax contributions. This includes the voluntary payments employees might pay into their super, but not the super guarantee you pay for them.
- A balance of under \$1.6 million is required to make after-tax contributions.

Questions?

Employers can call TWUSUPER on **1800 241 877** between 8am and 8pm (AEST/AEDT) weekdays for assistance.

You can also find up-to-date information on super contributions and tax benefits at twusuper.com.au/tax

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Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	% Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2017	\$m	423,737	1.7

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

CPI (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2017	Per cent		2.1
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated Residential Population (ABS)	30 Jun 2017	Million	24,573	
Retail Turnover (ABS)	Apr 2017	\$m	25,783	2.7
Actual New Capital Expenditure (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2017	\$m	27,752	-9.8
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Mar 2017	\$m	156,559	2.1
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Apr 2017	Number	17,552	-13.8
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Mar 2017	\$m	80,653	-3.7
Employed persons (ABS)	May 2017	Million	12,122	1.6
Unemployment rate(ABS)	May 2017	Percentage	5.7	0.0
TEUs through Port Botany (NSW Ports)	11 months ending May 2017	Number	2,236,725	
Wage Price Index (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2017	Per cent		
All employees				1.9
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.8
New motor vehicle sales (ABS)	May 2017	Number	98,534	0.8
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	4 months ending Apr 2017	Number	7,955	4.9
Vans (TIC)	4 months ending Apr 2017	Number	1,720	0.6
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	30 Jun 2017	Cents/litre incl. GST	106.0	

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