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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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National Road Safety Week Commences 6 May

Message from Sal Petrocitto, CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

National Road Safety Week kicks off on May 6, so please keep an eye out for the wide range of activities and safety messages, delivered by transport agencies, police and road safety advocates from right across Australia. Road safety is at the front of mind for many operators every week, however I believe this week is an important opportunity to reflect on how we can provide information and support beyond heavy vehicle drivers and operators. It's a collective effort by everyone in our industry to keep reinforcing heavy vehicle safety to the wider driving public. Last year the NHVR started using the Tell a mate slogan to highlight that heavy vehicle safety is everyone's business, whether you drive a truck, car or tow a caravan. This National Road Safety Week, don't keep your safety tips to yourself. Talk to other drivers, talk to your mates who drive light vehicles or talk to everyone in your supply chain.

Lower Interest Rates More Likely after Sharp March 2019 Quarter CPI Fall

Australia's inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index fell sharply in the year ending 31 March 2019 according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

CPI is measured in three separate ways. The headline rate, which best measures actual price movements, rose by 1.3 per cent in the year ending 31 March following no change in the CPI in the March 2019 quarter.

The ABS also measures CPI under two different ways to determine what it calls the underlying rate of inflation. One of those measures, the trimmed mean, recorded CPI at 0.3 per cent in the March 2019 quarter and 1.6 per cent in the year ending 31 March. The other underlying measure, the weighted mean, recorded CPI at 0.1 per cent in the March 2019 quarter and 1.2 per cent in the year ending 31 March. These measures of inflation smooth out volatile components of the CPI such as fuel price movements.

Fuel prices fell 8.7 in the March 2019 quarter and 3.5 per cent in the year ending 31 March.

Editorial Comment

The Reserve Bank has a target for inflation of 2-3 per cent a year. There is bipartisan political support for economic policy measures which aim to ensure CPI stays within this target band.

While some tolerance is accepted when CPI falls outside this 2-3 per cent band, policy makers become increasingly concerned when the difference between the actual and target levels of CPI become significantly greater. In the past two years, annual CPI has sat at levels between 1.8 and 2.1 per cent following a period in the year ending 31 December 2016 when annual CPI was between 1 and 1.5 per cent.

The drop in CPI of the magnitude that occurred in the March 2019 quarter has led to comment by market economists that a cut in official interest rates is increasingly likely. This is because sluggish price growth of this sort is a sign that the economy is, or at least is likely to grow more slowly. It is noteworthy that the rate of growth in Gross Domestic Product, which measures economic growth, has slowed since the June 2018 quarter which can be expected to depress price growth.

It can be expected that the Reserve Bank will give greater consideration to lowering official interest rates in the next few months due of this fall in CPI as well as other factors such as lower GDP growth, sluggish wages growth, lower housing activity and lower house prices. As shown in the Economic and Industry Indicators in *The Courier*, the rate of growth in container volumes through Port Botany have also slowed significantly since February. Import volumes in particular are falling.

However, the Reserve Bank can also be expected to look at other measures of economic performance which include a strong level of job creation and the low unemployment rate, both signs the economy is in good shape. The commitment by both major political parties to provide a tax rebate related to the current financial year, which can be expected to provide a short term stimulus, may also weigh in the Reserve Bank's mind.

Ultimately, the Reserve Bank will need to consider whether the drop in CPI is a one-off event, just as the stimulus from the tax cuts will be, or a signal that the economy is slowing down and a stimulus through an official interest rate cut is justified.

Irrespective of what and when they act to alter official interest rates, this CPI result makes it increasingly likely that interest rates will be cut, and cut sooner than previously thought.

Australian Research Study Backs Exercise for Sedentary Workers

Adapted from article, "OHS Alert", 24 April, 2019

An Australian study of almost 150,000 men and women aged over 45 and living in NSW claims to have confirmed that adequate exercise can mitigate the impacts of sedentary behaviour on cardiovascular health.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and led by University of Sydney Professor Dr Emmanuel Stamatakis, demonstrated that while people who sit for longer periods on a weekly basis were associated with higher all-cause mortality (ACM) and cardiovascular disease (CVD) mortality risk, these associations were mostly restricted to participants who were not meeting physical activity recommendations.

"Higher amounts of physical activity effectively eliminated the association of sitting time with ACM and CVD mortality risk," they concluded.

The study found that while physical activity has clearly established protective effects on health, the links between sedentary behaviour, mortality, and cardiovascular disease are not always well understood.

"Understanding the joint associations and the health-enhancing potential of various physical activity alternatives to sitting is important for the development of [evidence-based] guidelines," they said.

"Due to the absence of such evidence, sedentary behaviour guidelines are currently nonspecific and are not always evidence-based."

The research team organised participants into 20 mutually exclusive categories based on their level of risk, starting from the lowest risk category of people who sit less than four hours per day and do more than 420 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on a weekly basis.

"The gradient of the sitting-ACM and -CVD associations progressively levelled off with higher levels of physical activity," they said.

"Meeting even the lower 150 to 299 minute per week physical activity recommendation eliminated the association of sitting with ACM risk, where estimates only in the top sitting category (more than eight hours per day) reached statistical significance.

"Our results support continued efforts to promote physical activity in those segments of the population that are physically inactive."

The study found that replacing sitting with walking and vigorous intensity physical activity was associated with the most consistent risk reductions.

"Reduction of sitting time is an important strategy, ancillary to increasing physical activity, for preventing cardiovascular disease and premature mortality in physically inactive populations," the researchers said.

Professor Stamatakis said the findings would be useful for public health officials and workers in sedentary jobs.

"Any movement is good for health but physical activity of moderate to vigorous intensity – that is activities that get people out of breath – is the most potent and most time-efficient," he said.

"Exercise and sports are a great way to be active but are not the only way – walking fast, climbing stairs, and cycling to get from place to place are only some of the many opportunities everyday life offers to move and even 'huff and puff' sometimes."

Premier, Health Minister, Launch Flu Campaign

Adapted from joint media release, Hon Gladys Berejiklian, Premier and Hon Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health, 1 May, 2019

Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Health Minister Brad Hazzard have launched this year's Winter Flu Campaign.

Ms Berejiklian said free vaccines were available for those most vulnerable, including pregnant women, those over 65 years old, and anyone with medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease.

"More than one million flu vaccines have now been delivered across the State with more to come, so now is the best time for you to get vaccinated," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The vaccine is very safe and cannot give you the flu," she said.

"Last year, we avoided a repeat of the bad 2017 flu season, but we cannot be complacent so please, go get your flu jab," Mr Hazzard said.

Get Healthy at Work Program Moving to Ministry of Health

SafeWork NSW has run the Get Healthy at Work Program for several years.

This free program, which is available to all NSW businesses and public sector agencies, provides information and advice to employers and workers on activities they can do to make workplaces healthier.

SafeWork NSW has announced that from 1 July 2019, the NSW Ministry of Health will be offering a revised and more streamlined *Get Healthy at Work* program.

According to SafeWork NSW, improvements to the program will include a new website with improved functionality and refreshed online resources, an expanded Brief Health Check that includes both physical and mental health and well-being components, and tailored phone support for Workplace Health Programs.

The website URL will remain unchanged: www.gethealthyatwork.com.au.

Employers can participate in the Program by registering at <http://www.gethealthyatwork.com.au/registration>.

Truckies Target Light Drivers for Safety Tips

Overtaking, road positioning and stopping distances are some of the key issues addressed in a new series of videos educating light vehicle drivers how to behave around trucks.

NHVR Corporate Affairs Executive Director Joe Fitzgerald said the series by Whiteline Television consisted of ten separate video tips, each based on key themes highlighted by truck drivers who identified the most common on-road safety issues.

Mr Fitzgerald said when a light vehicle driver makes a mistake around a heavy vehicle, the consequences can be extremely serious, even fatal.

“This series of short videos will be a great quick and easy-to-use way to remind drivers how to share the road safely.”

The videos were produced by Whiteline Television and funded by the NHVR’s Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, supported by the Commonwealth Government.

Whiteline Television’s Executive Producer Stephen McCarthy said the videos were cohosted by heavy vehicle safety advocate Rod Hannifey and radio presenter Nicole Rutledge.

Mr Fitzgerald said the videos use a combination of on-road scenarios, graphics and animations to explain each tip in a straightforward and down-to earth way.

“They were Rod’s brainchild, leading to the driver survey and Truckie’s Top 10 Tips.”

For more information visit www.sharetheroad.net.au.

NHVR Wants to Discuss Ground Breaking Fatigue Monitoring Study with Operators

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has said it will meet heavy vehicle operators as part of a ground-breaking study into fatigue monitoring technology.

NHVR Fatigue Specialist Andreas Blahous said a research team was seeking expressions of interest from transport companies and manufacturers to take part in the independently-run safety project.

“We’ve asked independent research specialists to look at ways the NHVR can encourage the broader use of the different fatigue and distraction detection technology operators are already using,” Mr Blahous said.

He said operators have told the NHVR that this technology has the ability to identify fatigue incidents before they occur.

“We’ll be looking to learn from existing projects such as the Queensland Trucking Association’s Heavy Vehicle Safety Around Ports program and the Smart Truck program but we see a unique opportunity for operators to contribute their experiences and make a real and positive difference to safety on our roads.”

The NHVR recently appointed consultants to work with companies currently using, or having previously used, detection technology and devices in their business.

It said all data will be treated confidentially and not be identifiable in analysis as belonging to the company.

He said the research team will ask operators to provide access to data and have discussions with staff and drivers using the technology.

Expressions of interest are due by 21 May.

Further information is available from www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/fatigue-management/fatigue-monitoring-trial. Alternatively, the NHVR will also be hosting two seminars at the Brisbane Truck Show on Thursday May 16 (from 3.40 pm) and Saturday May 19 (from 11.40 am).

Almost 6,000 Businesses Targeted by Scammers in 2018 Says ACCC

Adapted from media release, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 1 May, 2019

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has found that Australian businesses reported more than 5800 scams with losses exceeding \$7.2 million in 2018, a 53 per cent increase compared to 2017. The ACCC's findings are contained in its "Targeting Scams Report".

The ACCC says that much of this increase is due to the \$3.8 million reported lost to sophisticated 'business email compromise' scams.

It says that when combined with losses reported to the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network, these scams cost Australian businesses over \$60 million.

"Scammers are hacking business email systems and impersonating the intended payment recipient. The scammers request changes to bank account details so that the business makes the payment to the scammer instead of the legitimate business," ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh said.

The ACCC says its scam targets any organisation that transfers money via bank accounts.

It says businesses with fewer than 20 staff were most likely to be targeted by scammers and accounted for more than 75 per cent of reports.

According to the ACCC, businesses were most likely to be targeted with false billing scams (1819 reports) but investment, hacking and phishing scams also caused significant losses.

"Australian businesses must protect themselves by ensuring their staff are aware of these scams so they can identify and avoid them. Every business should have clear processes for transferring money and a procedure for verifying requests to change bank account details that uses multiple modes of communication," Mr Keogh said.

The ACCC encourages businesses to visit www.scamwatch.com.au to learn more about scams targeting them and how to protect themselves. They can follow [@scamwatch_gov](https://twitter.com/scamwatch_gov) on Twitter and subscribe to [Scamwatch radar alerts](#).

Businesses can also sign up to the ACCC's small business information network via www.accc.gov.au/media/subscriptions/small-business-information-network to receive emails about new or updated resources, enforcement action, changes to Australia's competition and consumer laws, events, surveys and scams relevant to the small business sector.

A copy of the ACCC's report is available at www.accc.gov.au/publications/targeting-scams-report-on-scam-activity/targeting-scams-report-of-the-accc-on-scam-activity-2018.

TCA Grants Airtec OBM System Type Approval

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 30 April, 2019

Transport Certification Australia has announced the type-approval of an Airtec Corporation Pty Ltd On-Board Mass system.

According to TCA, Airtec Corporation is a global leader in digital tyre inflation and mass management systems.

TCA has granted Airtec Corporation's 89AXM Series Category A approval. It says Category A OBM systems electronically display mass information to drivers or loaders.

"After TCA released the OBM System Functional and Technical Specification to stakeholders, our team has designed, manufactured and engineered a smart OBM solution for Australia's heavy vehicle industry." Co-founder and Managing Director of Airtec Corporation Pty Ltd, David Hewett, said.

TCA said OBM systems have a diverse range of use, and type-approval brings reassurance of having met high levels of accuracy, reliability and robustness requirements, as well as meeting tamper evidence and security levels relevant to the type-approval category.

Intersection Closures, Meccano Set, Landsdowne

RMS has advised that it begin removing the existing 'Meccano Set' structure at the intersection of Hume Hwy, Woodville Rd and Henry Lawson Dr at Lansdowne and installing a new, identical structure.

RMS says the work requires it to close each approach to the intersection for one night each. It says this will take place over four consecutive Saturday nights between 9.30pm Saturday night and 8am Sunday morning.

Proposed intersection closures are

- Saturday 11 May – Woodville Rd approach.
- Saturday 18 May – Henry Lawson Dr approach.
- Saturday 25 May – Hume Hwy western approach (Cabramatta side).
- Saturday 1 June – Hume Highway eastern approach (Villawood side).

Please note: proposed dates are subject to change.

Clearly marked detours and traffic controllers will be in place.

Reminder: Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway and Prospect Hwy

A reminder that RMS has advised that ramp closures will be in place on the M4 Motorway at the Prospect Hwy off ramps as follows:

- The westbound off ramp will be closed for up to five nights from Sunday 5 May to Friday 10 May between 9pm and 5am.
- The eastbound off ramp will be closed for up to four nights from Sunday 5 May to Thursday 9 May between 9pm and 5am.

Reminder: Street Closures and Diversions, Sydney CBD

Advice from Ausgrid

Ausgrid has advised that the following 24-hour weekend road closures will be in place in the Sydney CBD to allow for installation of new underground electricity cables.

Road closures are:

CBD Street	Street Location	Dates/Times
Macquarie St	From Bent St/Shakespeare Pl to Hyde Park	8pm Friday 3 May to 5am Monday 6 May
College St	Intersection Liverpool and Oxford Sts	8 pm Friday 3 May to 6am Monday 6 May

Advice from Sydney Light Rail

Sydney Light Rail has advised the following traffic changes effective from 10pm, Friday, 3 May to 5am, Monday, 6 May:

- Park St and Druiett St will be closed to general traffic in both directions between Elizabeth St and York St.
- Westbound traffic on Park St will be detoured via Elizabeth St and Market St.
- Motorists travelling west should use Goulburn, Liverpool, Market or Bridge Sts.
- Motorists travelling east should use Bathurst or King Sts.
- Local access will be maintained under traffic control.
- Pitt St will be closed to general southbound traffic at Hay St. Motorists travelling south will be detoured via Hay St and Elizabeth St.

Road Works Update

The following new road work alerts may impact your operations. Please refer to earlier editions of *The Courier* for other current road works.

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	Work Times
Bell	Bell's Line of Road east of Darling Causeway	6/5-24/5/19	7am-5pm Mon-Fri
Bringelly	Bringelly Rd from South Creek bridge to Kelvin Park Dr, Jersey Rd	7/5/19	8pm-5am
Cattai	Cattai Rd bridge	7/5-7/6/19	7pm-5am Sun-Fri
Caringbah	Kingsway from Gannons Rd to President Ave	5/5-12/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Crows Nest	Pacific Hwy southbound north of Willoughby Rd/Falcon St intersection	27/5-26/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Dural	Old Northern Rd approx. 150m south of Galston Rd intersection	6/5-14/6/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri
East Kurrajong	Putty Rd, 1.9km north of Bull Ridge Rd	6/5-24/5/19	7am-5pm Mon-Fri
Eastern Creek	Wallgrove Rd from Interchange Dr to Great Western Hwy	5/5-7/6/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Londonderry	Londonderry Rd from Carrington Rd to Lennox St	12/5-16/8/19	7pm-5am Sun-Fri
Lucas Heights	Heathcote Rd east of New Illawarra Rd	6/5-24/5/19	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8pm-5am Sun-Fri
North Balgowlah	Burnt Creek Bridge Deviation from Serpentine St to Kitchener St northbound	29/4-26/7/19	8am-6pm Mon-Fri
Plumpton	Rooty Hill Rd North from Woodstock Ave to Lamb St	12/5-16/8/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
		16/4-10/5/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rossmore	Bringelly Rd, Allenby Rd, Church St, Masterfield St	4/5/19, 11/5/19	8am-5pm
Sandy Point	Heathcote Rd	6/5-24/5/19	7am-6pm Mon-Fri
Windsor	Bridge St bridge	12/5-12/7/19	7pm-5am Sun-Fri

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2018	\$m	462,031	2.3
CPI (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.3
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.5	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	18 Apr 2019	Million	25,357	1.9
Retail turnover (ABS)	Feb 2019	\$m	27,176	2.9
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2018	\$m	29,965	1.2
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Dec 2018	\$m	161,513	1.2
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Feb 2019	Number	15,203	-21.7
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Dec 2018	\$m	82,925	-1.7

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

TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	9 months to Mar 2019	Number	2,008,354	1.3
Employed persons (ABS)	Feb 2019	Million	12.763	2.3
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Feb 2019	Per cent	5.0	-0.5
Wage price Index (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2018	Per cent		
All employees				2.3
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.4
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	Mar 2019	Number	99,442	-7.1
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	2 months ending Feb 2019	Number	4,183	-3.5
Vans (TIC)	2 month ending Feb 2019	Number	892	-5.8
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	3 may 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	137.8	1.8

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