



**ARTIO**  
Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

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# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

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## **NSW Workers' Compensation Arrangements, 2019-20**

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Insurance and Care (icare) has released details of changes to workers' compensation arrangements to apply in NSW in 2019-20:

Each year Workers Compensation Industry Classification (WIC) rates are revised in line with an industry's performance. However, the average premium rate for NSW remains unchanged at 1.4% of wages.

WIC changes for 2019-20 in the road freight industry are:

### **NSW Workers Compensation Industry Classification (WIC) Rates and Dust Diseases Contribution, 2019-20 – Road Freight Industry.**

<b>Code</b>	<b>WIC Classification</b>	<b>WIC Rate (%)</b>	<b>Dust Diseases Contribution (incl GST) (%)</b>
611010	Road Freight Transport – Bulk Freight	5.220	0.022
611020	Road Freight Transport – Short Distance	6.060	0.008
611030	Road Freight Transport – Long Distance	6.360	0.022
611040	Furniture Delivery and Storage	7.760	0.088
664210	Freight Forwarding (Road) – Goods Handling	3.100	0.008

icare has also announced:

- Changes to the Employer Safety Incentive.
- Changes to the Return to Work Incentive.
- An increase in the Scheme Performance Measure.
- An increase in Loss Prevention and Recovery factors.
- A reduction in the Consumer Price Index applied to wages.

- A reduction in the Late Payment Fee.
- An increase in the claims excess.
- Increases in motor vehicle and accommodation allowances.

icare will conduct a review of your premium at your request. Please refer to [www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/premiums/premium-reviews](http://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/premiums/premium-reviews) for more information on the process and what to expect from your premium review.

For further information on workers' compensation insurance arrangements for 2019-20, including fact sheets for small employers and for experience rated employers, please visit [www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/premiums/premium-updates/#gref](http://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/premiums/premium-updates/#gref).

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## Shadow Road Safety Minister Commits to Ongoing Industry Engagement

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*Adapted from media release, Senator Glenn Sterle MP, Shadow Assistant Minister for Road Safety, 7 June, 2019*

Following his reappointment as Shadow Assistant Minister for Road Safety, Senator Glenn Sterle has reiterated his commitment to work with industry.

“Since I was appointed Shadow Assistant Minister for Road Safety in June last year, I have worked extensively with the road transport sector, including employment groups, the Transport Workers Union, state and national transport associations, owner drivers and regulators,” Sen Sterle said.

Senator Sterle said he looks forward to continuing to consult with all to ensure that Australia's transport industry remains safe and sustainable.

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## Save the Date: ARTIO NSW Annual Conference and Dinner, 25 July 2019

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ARTIO NSW is holding its Annual Conference and Dinner on 25 July.

It is intended that the Conference include will include sessions on Australia's economic outlook, the workplace relations outlook, on road compliance and enforcement, opportunities and challenges with new technologies, road law reform, as well as workplace health and safety priorities in the road transport industry. The dinner will include a guest speaker.

For further information, look out for flyers issues by the ARTIO secretariat or contact Hugh McMaster, email, [hughmc@artionsw.com.au](mailto:hughmc@artionsw.com.au), or telephone 0412 880861

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## Reserve Bank Outlines Case for Interest Rate Cut

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A statement issued by the Reserve Bank of Australia following its meeting in which it announced a 0.25% fall in the official cash rate from 1.5% to 1.25% provides an insight into why it decided to make the cut:

In its statement, the RBA said:

- It wants to support employment growth and provide greater confidence that inflation will meet its medium term target of 2-3 per cent.
- The outlook for the global economy is reasonable but risks to the economy stemming from trade disputes have increased.
- Bank funding costs have fallen and money market spreads have reversed the gains of last year.
- It believes the economy will grow by 2.75% in 2019 and 2020.
- It's main concern with the Australian economy is the outlook for domestic household consumption which is adversely affected by prolonged low wages growth and falling house prices.
- The labour market can sustain a lower unemployment level.
- Recent inflation levels are lower than expected which points to subdued economic activity.
- House prices continue to fall, although the rate of decline has slowed.

In conclusion, the RBA said it would continue to monitor labour market developments and adjust interest rates to support sustainable levels of economic growth and the achievement of the 2-3% inflation target over time.

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## **Economic Growth Continues Downward Trend**

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The Australian economy slowed further in the March, 2019 quarter bringing annual GDP down to 1.8 per cent, the lowest level in 10 years. This followed growth in the economy of 0.4 pc in the quarter.

Major factors in the lowering of economic growth rates were weak domestic consumption and significant falls in residential construction. Major contributors to economic growth were strong government spending in areas such as infrastructure construction, aged care and health and high commodity export volumes and prices.

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## **NHVR Announces Improvements to its Portal**

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The NHVR has announced what it says are some significant improvements coming to its portal which will allow customers to check their vehicle's registration at the same time as applying for access permits.

NHVR Business Improvement and Innovation Program, Director David Carlisle, said the upgrade would connect the data between the Portal's existing NHVR Access module and Registration module for the first time.

"From Wednesday 12 June, the NHVR Portal will provide additional functionality, linking vehicle configuration details and registration status between the two modules," Mr Carlisle said.

"This will save time for customers and reduce the amount of data entry required by adding vehicle information from previously approved permits and display registration status."

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## **NHVR Fees and Charges to Increase from 1 July**

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The NHVR has advised that some minor changes to fees and penalties under the Heavy Vehicle National Law will apply from 1 July.

According to the NHVR, all penalties will increase by CPI and access charges will increase from \$73 to \$74, also in line with CPI.

More information on changes to penalties can be found at [www.nhvr.gov.au/penalties](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/penalties). More information on NHVR fees for 2019- 20 can be found at [www.nhvr.gov.au/fees](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/fees).

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## **NHVR Route Planner to Replace Journey Planner**

The NHVR has announced that its Portal's Route Planner will replace the Journey Planner from 27 June.

According to the NHVR, Route Planner is an improved version of the previous tool that is contained within the NHVR Portal. Access options on the Route Planner are updated more frequently, and also display road manager boundaries and map layers such as pre-approved routes. It says the update makes it easier to plan heavy vehicle journeys.

Further information is available from [www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/journey-planner](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/journey-planner).

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## **Road Works Update**

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**Stockton Bridge, Stockton**

RMS has advised that changed traffic conditions will continue on Stockton Bridge at Stockton while investigation work is being carried out.

Work will be carried out between 9.30am and 2.30pm on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 June and is expected to be completed in two shifts, weather permitting.

#### **M4 Motorway, Mamre Rd Eastbound On Ramp**

RMS has advised that the Mamre Rd eastbound on ramp at the M4 Motorway will be closed for up to three nights from 9pm to 4am from Tuesday, 18 June to Friday, 21 June.

#### **Other Road Works**

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

<b>Suburb/Town</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>Work Times</b>
Alexandria	Botany Rd north of corner Gardeners Rd	16/6-30/6/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fr
Bella Vista	Cnr Norwest Blvd, Edgewater Dr and Westwood Way	13/6-30/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fr
			8pm-5am Sun-Fr
Dural	Old Northern Rd south of corner, Galston Rd	To 20/8/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri 7am-6pm Mon-Fri
Liverpool	Terminus St from Speed St to Carey St	16/6-23/8/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Lucas Heights/ Sandy Point	Heathcote Rd	17/6-30/8/19	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	Cnr Kent Rd and Coward St	16/6-30/6/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fr
Miranda	Cnr President Ave and Wandella Rd	11/6-28/6/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
			8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Penrith	Great Western Hwy near intersection, Lawson St	11/6-16/8/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Prairiewood	Cnr Smithfield Rd eastbound and Myrtle Rd	20/6-12/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Prospect	Cnr Prospect Hwy northbound and Blacktown Rd	20/6-12/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rose Bay/ Vaucluse	Old South Head Rd from Blake St to Captain Pipers Rd	30/6-6/9/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Ryde	Devlin St tunnel under Victoria Rd	17/6-4/7/19	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
West Ryde	Victoria Rd from Hermitage Rd to Linton Ave	30/6-23/8/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Yagoona	Hume Hwy eastbound from Highland Ave to Cooper Rd	11/6-5/7/19	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

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## **ARTIO NSW Events: Industry Leaders Dinner, 27 June 2019**

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ARTIO NSW's next Industry Leaders Dinner will be held on Thursday, 27 June with guest speaker, Peter Frazer, President, Safer Australian Roads and Highways (SARAH) Group.

Peter established SARAH following the death of his daughter in an avoidable crash on the Hume Highway in 2012.

As a consequence of this tragedy, he and his family decided that they would contribute to improving road safety outcomes through their policy development, community education as well as their advocacy work.

Peter is a keynote road safety speaker and regularly undertakes engagements at local, state, national and global events and conferences.

Further information is available from the ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer, tel: 0412 880861 or email, [hughmc@artionsw.com.au](mailto:hughmc@artionsw.com.au).

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## **Economic and Industry Indicators**

<b>Indicator/Source<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>As at</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Annual % Variation</b>
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<sup>1</sup> 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.

GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	\$m	463,613	1.7
CPI (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.3
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.25	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	14 June 2019	Million	25,407	1.9
Retail turnover (ABS)	Apr 2019	\$m	27,339	2.9
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	\$m	29,451	-0.4
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Mar 2019	\$m	162,129	1.0
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Apr 2019	Number	14,819	-21.8
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Mar 2018	\$m	81,819	-3.4
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	10 months to Apr 2019	Number	2,224,453	1.6
Employed persons (ABS)	May 2019	Million	12.857	2.7
Unemployment rate (ABS)	May 2019	Per cent	5.1	-0.3
Wage price Index (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.3
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.5
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	4 months to Apr 2019	Number	436,649	-8.1
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	4 months to Apr 2019	Number	9,412	-5.9
Vans (TIC)	4 months to Apr 2019	Number	1,849	-1.4
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	14 June 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	130.1	-4.5

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