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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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Reminder: ARTIO NSW 2019-20 Subscriptions Now Due

The ARTIO NSW secretariat takes this opportunity to remind Members that subscriptions for 2019-20 are now due.

If you have already paid, thank you for your prompt payment.

ARTIO NSW looks forward to being of service in 2019-20.

Please contact Hugh McMaster, in the ARTIO NSW office, telephone, 0412 880861, if you wish to discuss your 2019-20 ARTIO NSW subscription.

ARTIO NSW Annual Conference and Dinner, 25 July 2019: Registrations Close Soon!

The program for the ARTIO NSW Annual Conference and Dinner, to be held on 25 July, is almost finalised.

ARTIO NSW is pleased to announce that the latest speaker to accept an invitation to speak is The Hon Daniel Mookhey MLC, who was recently appointed as Shadow Minister for the Gig Economy. He will speak during the "Safe Standards for Transport Workers" session with TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine and, it is hoped, Senator Glenn Sterle, Shadow Minister for Road Safety.

The Conference also includes sessions on Australia's economic outlook, the workplace relations outlook, on road compliance and enforcement, opportunities and challenges with new technologies, Heavy Vehicle National Law reform, as well as workplace health and safety priorities in the 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, or telephone 0412 880861.

Reminder: Taxable Payments Reporting System Obligations Apply to the Road Freight Industry from 1 July

ARTIO NSW reminds members of obligations related to payments to contractors in both the road freight industry and the courier industry under the Taxable Payments Reporting System (TPRS).

From 1 July 2019, road freight operators will need to report payments made to contractors if the payments are for road freight services.

The TPRS is a transparency measure that requires businesses to report to the ATO payments they make to contractors for services

The TPRS aims to stamp out business activity in the black economy which gives some businesses an unfair competitive advantage and puts pressure on the margins of businesses wanting to do the right thing.

From 1 July 2019, businesses that provide road freight services are required to report to the ATO details of transactions that involve engaging other businesses (contractors) to undertake those services for them.

Reporting obligations in relation to the courier industry which took effect from 1 July 2018 now in effect also apply to road freight.

According to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the amended legislation, extending coverage of the TPRS to the road freight industry means the TPRS in effect now applies to any road freight task, including courier work.

It also extends reporting obligations related to the use of contractors to off road use of couriers such as bicycle couriers but not to other freight modes such as air and sea transport.

Further information on the black economy is available from the Commonwealth Treasury website, <https://treasury.gov.au/review/black-economy-taskforce/what-is-the-black-economy>.

Further information on reporting obligations of courier companies and road freight operators in relation to the black economy is available from the ATO website, [www.ato.gov.au/General/New-legislation/In-detail/Direct-taxes/Income-tax-for-businesses/Black-Economy-Taskforce--extension-of-the-taxable-payments-reporting-system-\(TPRS\)](http://www.ato.gov.au/General/New-legislation/In-detail/Direct-taxes/Income-tax-for-businesses/Black-Economy-Taskforce--extension-of-the-taxable-payments-reporting-system-(TPRS)).

ATO Advice on Deducting Business Claims

The Australian Taxation Office has updated its advice to businesses on what they can claim as tax deductions. It says businesses can claim a deduction for most expenses incurred to run a business, as long as they directly relate to earning assessable income.

Travel

If you or your employees travel for work, you can claim deductions on transport such as airfares, train, bus or taxi fares.

For overnight travel, the rule for claiming expenses is:

- One night or more - keep written evidence of all expenses
- Six or more consecutive nights - keep a travel diary recording all the particulars of the business activities you undertake.

Please go to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website, www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-travel-expenses, for further information.

Motor Vehicle Expenses

Do you have a car you only use for business? Claiming expenses and how you calculate them will depend on:

- Your business structure (i.e. sole trader, company, partnership or trust)
- The type of vehicle
- How the vehicle is used.

Go to the ATO's website to learn more, www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-motor-vehicle-expenses/.

Repairs and Maintenance

You can claim a deduction for repairs and maintenance on your business assets, including:

- Painting
- Conditioning gutters
- Plumbing maintenance
- Repairing electrical appliances
- Repairing machinery.

For more information visit the ATO's website at www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-repairs,-maintenance-and-replacement-expenses.

Running your Business from Home

If you run a home-based business, or have a home office where you work from home, you may be able to claim:

- Occupancy expenses - such as mortgage interest or rent, council rates, land taxes, house insurance premiums
- Running expenses - such as gas and electricity, phone, decline in value of plant and equipment, decline in value and cost of repairs to furniture and furnishings, cleaning.

Go to www.ato.gov.au/General/Property/Property-used-in-running-a-business/Running-your-business-from-home to work out what can be claimed as a tax deduction for home office expenses.

General Operating Expenses

Operating expenses are the costs you incur in the everyday running of your business, such as:

- Stationery
- Salaries
- Internet
- Insurance.

You can generally claim a deduction for most operating expenses.

Go to www.ato.gov.au/Business/Income-and-deductions-for-business/Deductions/Deductions-for-operating-expenses for a full list of claimable deductions.

NSW Energy Savings Scheme – Benefits for Businesses

According to the NSW Government, the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) cuts electricity and gas use by creating financial incentives for households and businesses to be more energy efficient by making it cheaper to invest in an upgrade project to reduce your energy use.

Under the ESS, all sorts of equipment and processes may be eligible. They include:

- Lighting.
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- Motors, fans and pumps, and much more.

Government-approved suppliers, known as Accredited Certificate Providers, can assist.

Further information is available from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment website, <https://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/business/discounts-and-incentives/about-energy-savings-scheme>

Reminder: WestConnex Homebush to Haberfield Section to Open on 13 July

Adapted from joint Media Release, Premier, Hon Gladys Berejiklian Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Hon Alan Tudge and Minister for Roads and Hon Andrew Constance, 10 July, 2019

The new M4 Tunnels from Homebush to Haberfield will open on Saturday, 13 July, according to the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian.

“We are now just days away from drivers benefiting from the first underground section of WestConnex,” Ms Berejiklian said.

Federal Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Alan Tudge, said the M4 Tunnels are the first of four tunnel pieces in the WestConnex puzzle.

Minister for Roads, Andrew Constance said within two years it is expected about 67,000 trips will be made through the new M4 Tunnels each day.

“WestConnex will take up to 10,000 trucks a day off Parramatta Rd, which is welcome news for anyone who sits in bumper to bumper traffic on that notoriously congested corridor,” Mr Constance said.

The 5.5 kilometre twin tunnels will be three lanes in each direction.

The WestConnex project also includes the New M5, the M4-M5 Link and the Rozelle Interchange, connecting Sydney’s west and southwest via more than 30km of continuous motorway.

What About Tolls?

Tolls will apply from the outset, meaning there will be no free period. Tolls will vary according to where a driver enters and exits WestConnex between Church St and Wattle St/Parramatta Rd.

Please refer to the table sent to Members on 10 July or visit www.linkt.com.au/sydney/using-toll-roads/toll-calculator.

NTC Releases National Heavy Vehicle Law Issues Paper on Vehicle Standards

The National Transport Commission has issued the fifth of eight issues papers as part of its review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law which covers the requirements for a safe vehicle.

This issues paper covers the design and build stages of the vehicle life cycle, registration, roadworthiness arrangements, modifications, inspections, defects and repairs, vehicle standards around mass, dimension and loading, and the arrangements for the performance based standards scheme. The paper says there is a high level of national consistency with safety and standards regulation which works well through harmonisation and good risk management.

However, the paper says safer and more productive vehicles and safety technologies face barriers, limiting their uptake, which affect PBS vehicles, access restrictions and administrative hurdles which discourage operators from taking up PBS vehicles and hamper the entry of more innovative vehicles into the prescriptive heavy fleet.

The paper says heavy vehicle safety technology has advanced considerably in the last 10 years but the HVNL doesn’t encourage, or even recognise, the uptake of some safety technologies.

The NTC seeks views on how to regulate safe vehicles to improve the HVNL to achieve the following:

- Encouraging safer vehicles.
- Effective maintenance and inspection.
- Effective identification, repair and clearance of defects.
- A common-sense approach to minor breaches.

The NTC invites comment from industry and is particularly interested in responses to the following questions by 30 August 2019:

- 1: What risks to safe vehicles that are currently out of scope for the HVNL should be brought into scope? What is in scope that shouldn't be?
- 2: Have we covered the issues relating to safe vehicles accurately and comprehensively? If not, what do we need to know?
- 3: How can the future HVNL most effectively deliver safer vehicles to the road? Which aspects of the PBS scheme are working well, and which aren't? What barriers to the broad uptake of safer vehicles exist?
- 4: How can the future HVNL encourage suitable maintenance programs? How can it most effectively identify and remove dangerous vehicles from the road?
- 5: How can the future HVNL meet the assurance needs of all Australian state and territory road transport authorities in a way that does not unreasonably impose on operators?
- 6: Do we need assurances regarding repairs and replacement parts? If so, could these be achieved using standards? Should third-party repairers be explicitly included in the Chain of Responsibility? How can defect clearance processes be reasonably expedited?
- 7: Should the future HVNL apply a risk-to-safety threshold for vehicle standards and loading matters?

This issues paper is available at https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.ntc-hvlawreview.files/5715/6273/1773/Vehicle_standards_and_safety_issues_paper.pdf.

NTC Recommends Significant Extension of Prohibitions on Driver Distractions

Adapted from article. "OHS Alert", 28 June, 2019

Operators will be forced to review their WHS and vehicle policies under planned "technology-neutral" road laws that significantly extend prohibitions on driver distractions like mobile phones and in-vehicle displays.

The proposed amendments to the Australian Road Rules will be put to transport ministers early next year, and depart significantly from the current rules, which were developed when mobile phones were only used for calls and texts, the National Transport Commission says in a consultation regulation impact statement.

The NTC says the current rules relating to driver distraction focus on specific types of technologies instead of their functions, and are unclear on which devices are legal or illegal to operate when driving, prohibiting the use of devices like phones and display units in most circumstances but permitting their use as drivers' aids.

It says drivers in the industry are required to interact with an increasing number of distracting technological devices, and said employers play a major role in building road safety cultures through their WHS strategies.

The NTC's regulatory impact statements says "the impairments from using a mobile phone while driving can be as profound as those associated with driving with a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 per cent".

However, it says an alarming difference between distracted driving and drink driving is that road users are likely to be exposed to distracted drivers at all hours of the day, whereas most alcohol-related road fatalities occur late at night, it says.

The NTC concludes that the hybrid option is "the most suitable for regulating the risks from driver distraction at an acceptable level of impact on businesses and individuals".

It says it will introduce a set of new offences "targeting the observable and enforceable behaviour undertaken by drivers found by research to increase the risk of a crash", and provide "a clear list of high-risk behaviours and interactions that drivers should avoid regardless of the technology involved or even the source of distraction".

The NTC says the hybrid option will also address sources of driver distraction that are difficult to regulate through prescriptive rules.

Further information is available from [www.ntc.gov.au/Media/Reports/\(DF7196BE-9EE1-0B23-CEC5-A45C7A5295C5\).pdf](http://www.ntc.gov.au/Media/Reports/(DF7196BE-9EE1-0B23-CEC5-A45C7A5295C5).pdf).

Why Did the Reserve Bank Lower Official Interest Rates Again?

The Statement issued by the Reserve Bank on 2 July following its decision on that day to lower official interest rates by a further 0.25 per cent to a new record low highlights concerns and challenges the Bank sees as facing the Australian economy.

The Bank said:

- Even though the global economic outlook remains “reasonable”, there are risks facing the global economy due to international trade and technology disputes, especially between the US and China, which can be expected to adversely affect investment.
 - There are market expectations that central banks around the world such as the Reserve Bank will lower official interest rates and some have done this.
 - Australia’s economy has grown below trend in the past year weighed down by low consumption growth, low income growth over a long period and falling house prices.
 - However, governments are spending more on infrastructure and resources investment is picking up which means that Australia’s economic growth should recover.
 - The Australian economy can sustain lower levels of unemployment and underemployment which should help to boost the rate of wages growth.
 - Inflation should have pick up in the June 2019 quarter due to higher fuel prices. The annual Consumer Price Index should rebound to above 2 per cent next year.
 - While housing markets remain soft, there are tentative signs that prices are stabilising.
 - Lowering interest rates should make further inroads into spare capacity in the economy and further reduce the unemployment rate.
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Reminder: NHVR Now Responsible for Safety and Compliance in the ACT

From 1 July the NHVR officially took over heavy vehicle safety and compliance for the ACT

The NHVR says that with this transition comes a number of changes for operators travelling to, from, within or through the ACT.

The NHVR’s Safety and Compliance Officers are now authorised to stop heavy vehicles to check compliance with the Heavy Vehicle National Law, driver licences, registrations and road rules.

The NHVR now also has responsibility for issuing major, minor and self-clearing defects notices. Self-clearing defect notices – introduced to the ACT for the first time – can be issued for faults that don’t pose a safety risk but still need to be rectified as soon as practicable.

Additionally, fatigue management provisions of the HVNL have now come into effect in the ACT.

To find out what these changes mean for the industry, and also get an update on other work, the NHVR, is holding a free information session at the Dickson Tradies on Tuesday, 23 July, 2019, from 4pm to 6pm. To register, please go to Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/2xpAUBQ>

The NHVR will also hold two Truckie Info Days, where drivers can drop in and talk about the changes on:

- Wednesday 24 July at United at Eaglehawk on Federal Highway from 12.00pm to 6.00pm
- Thursday 25 July at Caltex at Hume adjacent to Monaro Highway from 9.00am to 4.00pm

For more information, please contact NHVR Stakeholder Specialist Tim Hansen at tim.hansen@nhvr.gov.au, (07) 3309 8601 or 0419 729 399.

Cyber Security Survey for Small Business

The Australian Cyber Security Centre, which leads the Australian Government's efforts to improve cyber security, is conducting a survey of small business. The ACSC's role is to help make Australia the safest place to connect online.

The ACSC says responses will be used by them and other government agencies to understand small businesses' awareness of, and resilience to, cyber security threats. It says information provided will help improve its advice to small businesses.

This survey will take about nine minutes to complete, and can be done either on a personal mobile device or computer.

Participation in this survey is voluntary, and you can stop at any time. If you stop, please know your responses will still be recorded and analysed. Your responses will be kept anonymous. There will be no negative consequences if you choose not to participate, or if you stop participating once you've started. Results will be analysed and reported at an aggregate level.

If you consent to participate, please proceed with the survey.

For questions or concerns about this survey please contact the Australian Cyber Security Centre at ACSC.Small.Busiess@defence.gov.au.

The survey is at https://youropinion.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KQ22jMd6uap2nj.

“Heads Up, Play it Safe Around Light Rail” Sydney CBD Campaign Launch

Adapted from joint Media Release, Hon Gladys Berejiklian, Premier and Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport, 3 July, 2019

Light Rail Vehicle testing is ramping up along George Street, with the vehicles expected to reach Circular Quay by August and the line to open to customers before the end of the year, according to the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Minister for Transport Andrew Constance.

They said day testing now is underway between Randwick and Central.

Mr Constance said with testing becoming more frequent the NSW Government has launched the new “Heads Up, Play it Safe around Light Rail” safety campaign.

This recognises that trams are quieter than people expect and cannot stop easily or quickly.

The Premier and Minister have urged pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to be aware of trams and to remember that tracks are for trams.

Road Works Update

New Underpass, Mascot

Adapted from joint Media Release, Hon Alan Tudge, Federal Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport, 1 July, 2019

A new road underpass at Mascot, which has now opened, will improve access to Sydney Airport and Port Botany.

Federal Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Alan Tudge, said traffic will now be able to travel between Botany Rd and General Holmes Dr by passing through a new underpass under the rail line at Wentworth Ave.

Mr Tudge said this underpass is part of a suite of Airport East improvements, which include the upgrade of the Mill Pond Rd intersections with General Holmes Dr and Botany Rd, and the widening of Joyce Dr and General Holmes Dr between O’Riordan St and Mill Pond Rd to three lanes in each direction.

Mr Constance said a new freight rail bridge with duplicated tracks across the extended section of Wentworth Avenue will also be built.

Parramatta Light Rail Works

Transport for NSW has advised that construction work will take place in Camellia, Rydalmere, Ermington, Melrose Park, Wentworth Point and Sydney Olympic Park during July and August associated with the construction of the Parramatta Light Rail project.

Work will take place at various locations along the following route from Wentworth Point to Camellia: Hill Rd, Wharf Rd, Hope St, Boronia St, South St, Park St and Thackeray St. Work will also take place on Dawn Fraser Ave, Sydney Olympic Park.

Most of the work will be undertaken from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm on Saturday. However, at times, some out-of-hours work will be required from 6pm to 5am Monday to Saturday to avoid disruptions to businesses, parking and traffic.

Bridge Closure, Dry River Bridge, Quaama.

Transport for NSW has advised it is planning to carry out essential maintenance work on the Dry River Bridge, Princes Hwy, Quaama, around 30 km north of Bega.

The bridge will be closed to traffic on Sunday, 21 July between 7pm, and 11pm while work is carried out.

There is no detour and it will not be possible for any vehicles to cross the bridge during the four-hour-long closure.

Further work to is planned to start in August and will be carried out Sunday to Thursday evenings for approximately two weeks between 7pm and 9pm and each morning between 3am and 5am.

TfNSW has advised that further details will be provided in the coming weeks.

Changed Traffic Conditions, M1 Motorway Northbound Between Tuggerah and Doyalson

RMS has advised that changed traffic conditions will be in place on the M1 northbound between Tuggerah and Doyalson, approaching the service centre.

Work involves returning the two northbound lanes back to the left and onto the newly built permanent northbound lanes for about 3.8 kilometres, starting just north of the Alison Road overpass and ending about 1.5 kilometres south of the Sparks Road interchange.

Heavy vehicles should follow road signs and remain in the left lane.

Speed limits will remain at 80 km/h for the safety of workers and all road users.

These arrangements are expected to be in place from early Tuesday morning, 16 July, weather permitting.

Traffic control and a 40 km/h speed limit will be in place from 8pm on Monday, 15 July to 4am on the morning of the lane shift.

Oversize and/or overmass vehicles larger than 4.6 metres wide and 30 metres long may not be physically able to travel through sections of the M1 being upgraded without prior arranged assistance from the project team and must contact 1800 841 778, at least five days before any proposed travel. Please follow the prompts to the Tuggerah to Doyalson project to speak directly to the project team who will arrange provisional travel as required. This requirement is in addition to the conditions imposed on your approved permit and is for the safety of our road crews.

Southbound OSOM loads should also contact the project team in case there are any planned lane closures during night work.

If you have any questions, please contact our construction partner, CPB Contractors, on 1800 841 778 (24 hours) or M1T2Dinfo@cpbcon.com.au.

More information about the M1 Upgrades can be found at rms.work/M1Upgrades.

Reminder: Ramp Closure M4 Motorway Prospect Highway Westbound On Ramp

RMS has advised that the Prospect Highway westbound on ramp to the M4 Motorway will be closed for six nights from 9pm to 5am between Thursday, 11 July and Friday, 19 July.

Temporary Road Closure, Bringelly Rd, Bringelly

RMS has advised that Bringelly Rd Bringelly will be closed between Jersey Rd and The Northern Rd from 8pm Friday, 12 July to 8pm, Monday, 15 July. Detours are in place via Jersey Rd and Robinson Rd.

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.

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
		1/7-31/7/19	3	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kogarah	Princes Hwy between Grey St and South St	7/7-2/8/19	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kurrajong	Bells Line of Road between Old Bells Line of Road and Longleat Rd	17/7-31/7/19	2	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
MInchinbury	George St at great Western Hwy intersection	18/7-20/9/19	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Plumpton	Jersey Rd westbound corner Hyatt's Rd	18/7-20/9/19	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Prospect	Prospect Hwy at Blacktown Rd intersection	18/7-20/9/19	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
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	1.0	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	12 July 2019	Million	25,410	1.7
Retail turnover (ABS)	May 2019	\$m	27,374	2.7
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	\$m	29,451	-0.4
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Mar Qtr 2019	\$m	162,129	1.0
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	May 2019	Number	14,778	-20.9
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Mar 2018	\$m	81,819	-3.4
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	11 months to May 2019	Number	2,438,226	1.8
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)	6 months to Jun 2019	Number	554,466	-8.3
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	5 months to May 2019	Number	12,357	-6.9
Vans (TIC)	5 months to May 2019	Number	2,460	0.6
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	12 July 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	133.8	-3.4

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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.