



Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

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Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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ARTIO NSW Appears Before NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Mobile Phone Detection Laws

On 30 October, the ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer appeared before a parliamentary inquiry into the Road Transport Amendment (Mobile Phone Detection) Bill 2019.

ARTIO NSW understands it is the only industry organisation to have made a submission to the Bill.

There is broad support in State Parliament to pass legislation to enable fixed speed cameras to be used on the NSW road network to detect illegal mobile phone use. There is also cross party support for the Bill to be passed so that legislation can be enacted quickly.

However, there is disagreement within the parliament on three issues. The first relates to the reversal of the onus of proof that an offence has been committed, notwithstanding the inclusion of adequate safeguards. The second concerns privacy issues related to the capture by cameras of images, and their storage and retention, for the purposes of detecting an offence as well as the subsequent commencement of legal proceedings. Finally, there are different views on aspects of any education and communication campaign designed to reduce illegal behaviour.

ARTIO NSW's submission stressed that drivers of trucks, including couriers and postal workers, are more exposed to and affected by fatal and serious crashes, and suffer trauma and other adverse mental health impacts while going about their work, and earning a living, than other road users. This submission also stressed that cultural change is required to reduce the incidence of illegal mobile phone behaviour, just like mandating seat belt wearing and random breath testing. In supporting a broadly based education and communication campaign, this submission said this includes providing information and advice to operators and drivers which make clear what is legal mobile phone use and what is not allowed under the proposed legislation.

ARTIO NSW's submission also said there are adequate safeguards for those who are charged with an offence based on a camera image and that, while privacy issues are unlikely to arise in the industry, strong accountability measures are necessary to address legitimate community concerns about capturing and retaining images captured by cameras.

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Extends Industry Inquiry Deadline

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee, which is inquiring into the importance of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry, has extended its deadline to receive submissions to 8 November.

Terms of Reference for this inquiry have particular reference to:

- The importance of an enforceable minimum award rate and sustainable standards and conditions for all stakeholders in the road transport industry;
- The development and maintenance of road transport infrastructure to ensure a safe and efficient road transport industry;
- The regulatory impact, including the appropriateness, relevance and adequacy of the legislative framework, on all stakeholders in the road transport industry;
- The training and career pathways to support, develop and sustain the road transport industry;
- The social and economic impact of road-related injury, trauma and death;
- Efficient cost-recovery measures for industry stakeholders, including subcontractors;
- The impact of new technologies and advancements in freight distribution, vehicle design, road safety and alternative fuels;
- The importance of establishing a formal consultative relationship between the road transport industry and all levels of government in Australia; and
- Other related matters.

ARTIO NSW encourages Members to make submissions to this enquiry via email, rrat.sen@aph.gov.au.

Further information is available from [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport/RoadTransportIndustry](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Rural_and_Regional_Affairs_and_Transport/RoadTransportIndustry)

Minister Toole Announces Improved 36.5m HPV Access Through Coonabarabran

Adapted from media release, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Hon MP, 26 October, 2019

The NSW Government has approved access for higher productivity vehicles on the Newell Hwy through Coonabarabran from November.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads Paul Toole said allowing road trains up to 36.5 metres through Coonabarabran is a significant step towards achieving end-to-end access for these vehicles on the Newell, and unlocking access between Narrabri and Tooraweenah.

He said road trains carrying hay in support of drought relief have been safely travelling through Coonabarabran since August 2018.

Following a detailed review, higher productivity vehicles will now have the same access.

September CPI Result Reduces Chances of Short Term Interest Rate Cut

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose by 1.7 per cent in the year ending 30 September, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Market economists said inflation has held steady and, given three official interest rate cuts and tentative signs that the Australian economy is resuming an upward trajectory, the likelihood of a further interest rate cut has fallen.

Safe Work Australia Develops Safety Champion Resources

SafeWork Australia has developed a wide range of resources this year to show how workers, employers, individuals and businesses can champion WHS at their workplace.

These include a safety champion fact sheet and checklist, information about working safely in 22 languages, videos on innovative WHS solutions and an infographic on the four steps to preventing a psychological injury at work.

SafeWork Australia encourages you to shout to the safety champions at your workplace by using the hashtags #safeworkmonth #safetychampion.

Safe Work Australia's safety champion fact sheet is available at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month-safety-champion-fact-sheet>.

Safe Work Australia's safety champion check list is available at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month-safety-champion-check-list>

New Park'nPay App to Make Paying Metered Parking Easier

The Minister for Customer Service, Victor Dominello, has announced that drivers in Sydney can now find, pay and top up their metered parking instantly via the Park'nPay app.

He said drivers can use the Park'nPay app to pay for metered parking and receive notifications when their meter is running low or their parking space is about to turn into a no stopping zone.

When a meter is about to expire, the account can be topped up through the app, without the driver having to return to their car.

Drivers will have a 10-minute grace period for not getting fined after paying for at least one hour of parking.

How to use Park'nPay:

- Download the free Park'nPay app
- Create an account with the car's licence plate number
- Add payment details.

Payments can be made with Visa, Mastercard, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Parking meters will continue to accept coins.

Parking inspectors will check to see if a meter has been paid by searching the licence plate using an app on their phone.

Park'nPay is currently available in The Rocks, Liverpool Council and parts of Darling Harbour and Pyrmont and will be expanded to more areas in late 2019 and early 2020.

Further information is available from <https://parknpay.nsw.gov.au/>

NHVR Announces Investigation into Remapping of Truck Engines

The NHVR has announced in conjunction with South Australia Police it has commenced an investigation into allegations about the remapping of truck engines throughout Australia.

NHVR Director of Investigations Steve Underwood said that remapping allows emissions controls and speed limiters on heavy vehicles to be modified.

“Remapping engines allows trucks to exceed the speed limit unimpeded, endangering all other road users,” Mr Underwood said.

“These are very serious allegations and we are concerned about how widespread this practice may be.

He said this investigation involves Police agencies from South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland as well as NHVR investigators from Brisbane and Adelaide and VicRoads officers.

Anyone who has information concerning the remapping of truck engines they should contact the NHVR Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Line urgently on 1800 931 785. The HVCRL’s operating hours are 7am-4.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday. Calls are free from any landline in Australia and some mobile providers.

The NHVR says operators, Executive officers and companies who modify vehicle engines may encourage drivers to speed in direct contravention of their safety duties under the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Penalties for these serious criminal offences are up to 5 years imprisonment for an individual and up to \$3 million in fines for a company.

NHVR Responsible for On Road Compliance in Victoria from 8 December

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced that it will provide heavy vehicle on-road compliance and enforcement services in Victoria from 8 December, with staff currently employed by VicRoads in on and off road heavy vehicle compliance roles joining the NHVR.

NHVR National Service Transition Program Executive Kelli Walker said current VicRoads Transport Safety Services Officers (TSS Officers) that undertake on road heavy vehicle intercepts will become NHVR Safety and Compliance Officers (SCOs). While the officers will have the same authority to stop heavy vehicles to check compliance with a range of laws, their uniforms and vehicles will look different with NHVR branding.

“These officers will also continue to provide heavy vehicle escort services in Victoria and will be authorised to direct traffic and issue directions to motorists when escorting oversize and overmass loads,” Ms Walker said

VicRoads will continue to provide a number of important heavy vehicle services, including licensing, registration, clearance of defect notices, and tow truck investigations and compliance.

Victoria is the fourth state—after South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT—where the NHVR will be directly delivering heavy vehicle regulatory services.

The transition will support borderless services, improving consistency for operators.

For more details on the transition visit www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/national-services-transition

Forthcoming ARTIO NSW Event

ARTIO NSW Industry Leaders Dinner, 7 November

ARTIO NSW will hold its next Industry Leaders Dinner on 7 November at the Executive Room, El Phoenician, Parramatta.

Guest speaker is Mal Kains, a safety and risk practitioner specialising in transport safety investigation. Mal will discuss the importance of a safety culture in transport.

Mal has extensive incident site experience and has trained and mentored investigators. He was appointed chief investigator into the Waterfall rail disaster, working in conjunction with the special commission of inquiry headed by Justice Peter McInerney. Over the following decade he undertook more than 300 occurrence investigations and managed safety projects in NSW and WA.

Mal has contributed to the development of industry standards and codes of practice and overseen the development of safety systems and processes across rail, air, light rail and heavy vehicle industries.

For further information on these events, please contact the ARTIO NSW office, tel: 0412 8808961, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au.

New Clearway

King Georges Rd between M5 Motorway and Stoney Creek Rd, Beverly Hills from 2 December

Extended clearways will be operational on King Georges Rd through Beverly Hills between the M5 Motorway and Stoney Creek Rd from 2 December 2019.

The clearway hours will operate in both directions on King Georges Rd from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and from 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

Road Works Update

M4 Motorway Closure; Ramp Closures

A reminder that RMS advises that upcoming ramp closures at the Burnett St and Coleman St ramps on the M4 Motorway are scheduled as follows:

Burnett St eastbound on ramp:

- Sunday 10 November to Monday 11 November 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.
- Sunday 17 November to Monday 18 November 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.

Coleman Street eastbound on ramp:

- Sunday 3 November to Tuesday 5 November 9pm to 4am. Two night ramp closure.

Closure, General Holmes Dr, 3-25 November

RMS advises that General Holmes Dr will be closed between 1km east of the airport tunnel and 1km west of the airport tunnel from 3 to 25 November on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 4.30pm.

Closure, Eastern Distributor, 4-8 November

RMS advises that the Eastern Distributor between Sydney and Zetland will be closed each night from 4 to 8 November from 10pm to 5am.

Ramp Closure, Pennant Hills Rd onto M2 Motorway Westbound, 3-19 November

RMS advises that the Pennant Hills Rd on ramp to the M2 Motorway westbound will be closed between 10pm and 5pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 3 November to 19 November.

Closure, Bridge St Sydney Eastbound, 2 and 9 November

RMS advises that eastbound lanes on Bridge St, Sydney will be closed between George and Pitt Sts on 2 and 9 November between 6.30am and 1pm.

Parramatta Light Rail Update

Transport for NSW has announced the Parramatta Light Rail construction plan for 'Eat Street' in Parramatta.

The construction plan will see Church St, from the Riverside Theatre to Centenary Square (including the 'Eat St' dining precinct from Macquarie St to Lennox Bridge) closed to vehicle traffic (except for emergency vehicles) from 1 February, 2020.

Macquarie, George, Phillip and Market Sts will remain open to vehicles to keep the Parramatta CBD moving during construction.

Major construction will begin on Eat Street in June 2020. This will entail removal of the existing road surface, deep excavations, the laying of new underground utility services, construction of light rail tracks, footpath works and landscaping.

The Parramatta Connect Joint Venture will work with businesses prior to the pedestrianisation to develop freight and servicing plans and to identify the nearest loading zones on surrounding streets.

Road Works, M1 Motorway, Kariong, 10-12 November

RMS has advised that overnight road works on the M1 Motorway southbound will lead to the closure of one lane, with work scheduled to commence at 10pm, 10 November. It says that from 4am on 11 November, the southbound exit ramp will “occur 500m earlier” than the current location.

Albion Park Rail Bypass Changes from 4 November

Member for Kiama, Gareth Ward, has advised that a section of the new East West Link being built as part of the Albion Park Rail bypass project will open to traffic on 4 November between 7pm and 7am, weather permitting.

He said traffic will shift onto the new section between Croome Rd and Woollybutt Dr overnight.

Motorists travelling east from Croome Rd and Ashburton Dr will access the new road using the new roundabout opposite the Croom Regional Sporting Complex.

Those travelling west along the existing East West Link will be diverted onto the new section of road at the Woollybutt Dr intersection.

Traffic control and reduced speeds will be in place.

Upcoming work in this area includes installing traffic lights at the entrances to both quarries and at the intersection of Woollybutt Dr and Princes Hwy.

Road Works, Federal and Hume Hwys

Transport for NSW has advised that road re-surfacing work has started on sections of the Hume and Federal highways between Yarra and Sutton.

“Work will be carried out on weeknights between 7pm and 5am from Sunday 20 October for up to four weeks, weather permitting, to minimise impacts to motorists.”

Work will be carried out in Yarra on the southbound lanes between Kibby Rest Area and Thornford Rd as well as on the northbound lanes between Rowes Lagoon and Wollogorang Rd.

Work will also be carried out for 200 metres south of Sutton Rd Bridge.

The northbound on and off ramps from the Federal Hwy to Sutton Rd will close for up to two nights during this work.

During these closures, northbound traffic on the Federal Hwy, wishing to access Sutton Rd will be detoured via Macs Reef Rd and back to the southbound off ramp.

Traffic on Sutton Rd wishing to enter the Federal Hwy, northbound, will be detoured via the southbound on-ramp to the Eaglehawk crossover.

Work will also take place on the southbound lanes of the Hume Hwy between Barkers Bridge and the Federal Hwy off ramp.

There will also be up to two nights when the Barkers La intersection on the Hume Hwy will close to traffic with diversions in place via Parkesbourne Rd.

Electronic message signs will advertise specific dates and detour information in advance.

Other sections of the Hume and Federal highways between Goulburn and Wollogorang will also be repaired.

Single lane closures, traffic control and a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h will be in place during work hours.

Installation of No Right Hand Turns from 1 November, Berry to Bomaderry Upgrade

Transport for NSW has advised that right turn restrictions will be introduced at a number of intersections through the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade from 1 November.

No Right Turn signs will be installed along the Princes Hwy at the intersections of O’Keeffes and Abernethys lanes, and Jaspers Brush Rd, where no dedicated right hand turn bays exist, from Friday 1 November.”

Road users will be required to travel to the next side road with a dedicated right-hand turn lane where, once in the side road, they can then safely make a u-turn and re-join the highway to travel back to their destination.

Changed Traffic Conditions, Snowy Mountains Hwy

RMS has advised that changed traffic conditions will apply throughout November on the Snowy Mountains Hwy, for maintenance work to be carried out.

Single lane closures will be in place for road surface repairs along small areas of a 45km section of road, from the Hume Hwy to Tumut.

Work will be carried out on sections of the road from 7am to 5.30pm weekdays and from 7am to 2pm on Saturdays from 1 November to 30 November, weather permitting.

Traffic control and a reduced speed limit will be in place for the safety of workers and motorists.

Motorists are advised to drive to the conditions and follow the directions of signs and traffic control.

Reminder: Sidetrack Open, Bunnerungee Bridge Silver City Hwy

A reminder that RMS has advised that a temporary sidetrack has been constructed to provide access at the Bunnerungee Bridge, north of Wentworth on the Silver City Hwy.

This new sidetrack is now open to heavy vehicles.

Work on this bridge, which RMS has determined to be structurally deficient, is expected to be completed by 29 November.

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
Burwood	Cnr Parramatta Rd and Burwood Rd	10/11/-28/11/19; 1/12-13/12/19	20	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Eastlakes, Daceyville, Kingsford	Gardeners Rd from Racecourse Pl to Bunnerong Rd	10/11/19- 28/2/20	33	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Hurstville	Queens Rd from The Avenue to Croydon Rd	3/11/19-14/2/20	25	8pm-5am Mon and Fri
Marrickville	Buckley St between Marrickville Rd and Sydenham Rd Sydenham Rd between Buckley St and Railway Pde	3/11-20/12/19	8	8pm-5am Mon-Sun
Sylvania	Princes Hwy from Tom Ugly's Bridge southern side to Yeran St	3/11/19-14/2/20	15	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	\$m	465,494	1.4
CPI (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.7
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.75	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	1 Nov 2019	Million	25,505	1.6
Retail turnover (ABS)	Aug 2019	\$m	27,501	2.3
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	\$m	29,240	-1.3

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.

Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	\$m	161,678	0.3
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Sep 2019	Number	13,199	-21.1
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2019	\$m	81,007	-4.0
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	3 months to Sep 2019	Number	626,013	-8.4
Employed persons (ABS)	Sep 2019	Million	12,943	2.4
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Sep 2019	Per cent	5.3	0.1
Wage price Index (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.3
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.4
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	9 months to Sep 2019	Number	811,464	-7.9
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	8 months to Aug 2019	Number	21,075	-8.2
Vans (TIC)	8 months to Aug 2019	Number	4,305	2.7
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	1 Nov 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	137.4	-8.4

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