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Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Senate to Inquire into Road Transport Industry

The Senate has agreed to establish an inquiry into the road transport industry with the following terms of reference:

The importance of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry, with particular regard to:

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

Background

This inquiry followed extensive consultation through two Transport Industry Standards Forums convened by Sen Glenn Sterle, ALP, WA, with representatives of a many industry stakeholders, including ARTIO NSW.

At the second forum held in August, attendees agreed to support a proposal from Senator Sterle for a Senate inquiry into the industry, and then endorsed terms of reference which formed the basis of the inquiry which successfully passed through the Senate.

The inquiry has the support of the ALP, Greens and all cross bench minor party Senators.

Changes to Road Rule Requiring Drivers to Slow Down when Passing Stationary Emergency Vehicles

Adapted from media release, Minister for Roads Andrew Constance, Minister for Regional Roads Paul Toole, Assistant Commissioner, NSW Police Force, Michael Corboy and President, Safer Australian Roads and Highways Peter Frazer, 11 September, 2019

Changes will be made to the road rules following the completion of a trial requiring drivers to slow down to 40km/h when passing stationary emergency vehicles with flashing blue or red lights, according to Transport for NSW.

From 26 September:

- Drivers will no longer need to slow down to 40km/h on roads with speed limits of 90km/h or over.
- Drivers will continue to be required to slow down to 40km/h on roads with speed limits of 80km/h or under.
- The rule will be expanded to include tow trucks and breakdown assistance vehicles, including NRMA operated vehicles, which are displaying yellow flashing lights while stopped on the road.

On roads with speed limits of 90km/h or over drivers will need to:

- Slow to a speed which is safe and reasonable for the circumstances;
- Give sufficient space between their vehicle and the breakdown assistance or emergency vehicle and workers.
- On multi-lane roads, drivers must change lanes to keep the lane next to the vehicle free if it is safe to do so.

A \$457 fine and 3 demerit points will apply for motorists who do not comply with the new road rule. A maximum court penalty of \$2,200 will also apply.

Further information, including frequently asked questions related to the road rule regarding slowing down when passing emergency vehicles, is available from <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/slow-down-and-give-space/faqs.html>.

Identifying Labels Mandated on All Electric, Hybrid and Hydrogen Vehicles in NSW

RMS has advised that all electric, hybrid and hydrogen light and heavy vehicles manufactured or modified after 1 January 2019, are legally required to have a small identifying label fixed to the front and rear number plates, effective 1 September, 2019.

This safety initiative has been introduced to help emergency services staff and first responders protect themselves and the public in the event of an incident.

The registered operators of all affected vehicles will soon receive a letter from Transport for NSW, along with the mandatory, self-adhesive labels and instructions on how to affix them to their vehicle.

Fines may apply for failing to display the labels from 1 January 2020.

NHVR Seeks Feedback on CoR Tools

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is seeking feedback on information and tools to help duty holders understand their obligations and practical steps they can take to meet those obligations under Chain of Responsibility legislation.

The NHVR says it wants to ensure these tools are relevant, useful and easy to understand.

It has prepared a short anonymous survey, which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/29YTW2G

Taxable Payments Reporting System: ATO Provides Advice for Courier Companies

The Australian Taxation Office has created a web page to assist courier companies who are now required to report payments under the Taxable Payments Reporting System.

This website defines courier services, provides advice for companies which conduct business in other industries, including road transport, and provides examples of courier services. There are also links to other parts of the ATO website.

Further information is available from www.ato.gov.au/business/reports-and-returns/taxable-payments-annual-report/work-out-if-you-need-to-report/courier-services/.

Forthcoming Austroads Webinar: Key Freight Routes – Heavy Vehicle Usage Data Project Report

Austroads will hold a webinar on its recently completed project, *The Key Freight Routes – Heavy Vehicle Usage Data Project*, online on Thursday, 3 October, commencing at 1pm.

This project analysed telematics data to explore how heavy vehicles use roads designated as Key Freight Routes.

According to Austroads, the project found that telematics can provide a wide range of statistics that can help inform public policy and road planning. It also found data collection using telematics devices is less burdensome on drivers and transport operators than paper-based surveys and can provide complimentary and, in some cases, more detailed road usage information than traditional traffic surveys.

The report recommends developing a broader national freight vehicle telematics data collection which can be used at national, state or territory, and local levels to inform policy and planning.

This webinar will discuss the methodology used in preparing the research, outcomes of discussions with industry and other stakeholders, key recommendations from the report and recent updates to the National Telematics Framework

To register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/675643699204422915>.

Save the Date: ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing, 30 October, 2019

ARTIO NSW is pleased to announce that Dr Jeff Potter, Principal Policy Advisor at the National Transport Commission, will address the next ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing to be held on 30 October. Further details to follow soon.

New Clearways

Delhi Rd, Millwood Ave and Fullers Rd between Epping Rd, North Ryde and the Pacific Hwy, Chatswood
Pacific Hwy between Fullers Rd, Chatswood and Boundary St, Roseville

RMS has advised that new clearways will apply on Delhi Rd, Millwood Ave and Fullers Rd between Epping Rd, North Ryde and the Pacific Hwy, Chatswood. and extended clearways on the Pacific Hwy between Fullers Rd, Chatswood and Boundary St, Roseville.

The clearways will be operational from 6am, Monday, 23 September 2019.

The new and extended clearways will operate in both directions on Delhi Road, Millwood Avenue, Fullers Road and Pacific Highway from:

- 6am to 7pm on weekdays;
- 9am to 6 pm on weekends and public holidays.

The metered parking spaces and Truck Zone on Pacific Hwy, north of Fullers Rd will be removed. No Stopping restrictions will be installed at the intersection of Fullers Rd and Pacific Hwy.

Road Works Update

Weekly Construction Update: Parramatta Light Rail

Transport for NSW has advised the development of a website which provides a weekly report on proposed construction activity which will affect transport operators accessing roads along and adjacent to the proposed route of the Parramatta Light Rail.

Advice includes street closures, locations where traffic control will impact on through traffic as well as locations where utilities and telecommunications infrastructure are being relocated.

Construction activities are described by suburb, day of the week and whether work is taking place day or night.

Further information is available from www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/weekly-works.

M4 Motorway between Reservoir Rd and Wallgrove Rd

RMS has advised that the next gantry installations on the M4 Motorway will require its closure between Reservoir Rd and Wallgrove Rd, both eastbound and westbound, from 11pm, Monday 23 September until 4am, Tuesday 24 September. This closure may be moved to Tuesday or Wednesday night due to weather or other conditions.

There will be temporary traffic changes during the closure to ensure the work zone is safe. Light and heavy vehicles will be diverted onto the Great Western Hwy from Reservoir Road and Wallgrove Rd/M7.

The following ramps will be closed on Monday 23 September from:

- 9pm All M7 to M4 on ramps
- 10pm Cumberland Highway westbound on ramp
Reservoir Road westbound on ramp
- 11pm Wallgrove Road eastbound on ramp
M4 to M7 westbound off ramp
M4 to Wallgrove Road westbound off ramp

Changed Traffic Conditions, M1 Motorway Southbound Between Warnervale Interchange and Alison Rd Overpass Early Thursday Morning, 26 September

RMS has advised that work continues to prepare for the upcoming shift of the two existing southbound lanes to the right near the southbound service centre M1 re-entry ramp.

RMS plans to shift the two existing southbound lanes to continue straight ahead for about 2.7kms, from the exit of the southbound service centre to just south of the Alison Rd overpass. There will be no change to the service centre access.

These changes are expected to be in place from early Thursday morning, 26 September, weather permitting.

It is anticipated work to upgrade the M1 in this area will take about six months to complete.

RMS says heavy vehicles should continue to follow road signs and remain in the left lane.

Road Works, Proposed Traffic Changes, Mascot

RMS has advised that work has started to upgrade some of Mascot's busiest intersections.

Work commenced on 15 September at the intersection of Bourke and Coward Sts, to install signs and improve the road surface, and will continue for up to five nights a week from 8pm to 5am, Sunday to Thursday, until late November.

When work is complete, right turns will be banned for all vehicles except buses from Coward St (east) into Bourke St (north) and from Bourke St (south) into Coward St (east).

It says work on four other intersections will then start.

The intersections to be addressed in late 2019 will be Coward St and Kent Rd, Gardeners Rd and Botany Rd, and Kent Rd and Ricketty St. This will be followed by the fifth intersection in this project, at Gardeners Rd and O’Riordan St.

Pacific Highway Upgrade, New Whyte’s La Overpass, Open at Pimlico

Transport for NSW has advised that five kilometres of new single lane highway operating southbound has opened at Pimlico, north of Wardell, as part of the Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Hwy upgrade.

The Whyte’s Lane overpass bridge has also opened to traffic, which means safer access across the highway for motorists.

Whyte’s Lane is the third and final overpass bridge to open between Broadwater and Pimlico.

TfNSW warns road users to expect changing conditions on the existing highway and surrounding local roads as work continues. This includes reduced speed limits, closed or opened shoulders and overtaking lanes, or being moved onto new sections of road.

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
Gordon-Killara	Between Ryde Rd and Fiddens Wharf Rd	16/9-15/12/19	55	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8pm-1am Sat 10pm-5am Sun-Fri
Peakhurst- Beverly Hills	Forest Rd between Tourney St and Holley La Stoney Creek Rd between Forest Rd and Central Rd	29/9-22/11/19	9	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Roseville- Chatswood	Between Boundary Rd and Fullers Rd	13-22/9/19	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Ryde- Chatswood	Delhi Rd, Millwood Ave and Fullers Rd between Epping Rd and the Pacific Hwy	13-22/9/19	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Wiley Park	King Georges Rd from Canterbury Rd to Punchbowl Rd	29/9-13/12/19	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	\$m	465,494	1.4
CPI (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.6
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	1.0	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	20 Sep 2019	Million	25,465	1.6
Retail turnover (ABS)	Jul 2019	\$m	27,444	2.4
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)	Jul 2019	Number	13,543	-24.0
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2019	\$m	81,007	-4.0
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	1 month to Jul 2019	Number	207,767	-6.9
Employed persons (ABS)	Aug 2019	Million	12.921	2.5
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Aug 2019	Per cent	5.3	0.0
Wage price Index (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.3
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.4
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	Aug 2019	Number	85,633	-10.1
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	7 months to Jul 2019	Number	18,416	-7.1
Vans (TIC)	7 months to Jul 2019	Number	3,667	5.4
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	20 Sep 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	137.6	-5.8

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