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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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NSW Rolling Out Detection Cameras Targeting Illegal Mobile Phone Use

The NSW Centre for Road Safety has announced that the NSW Government's mobile phone detection camera program will now be rolled out from late 2019.

It says that the program will include fixed and relocatable trailer-mounted cameras. Together, these cameras will target illegal mobile phone use anywhere, anytime.

The detection system, which operates both day and night and in all weather conditions, uses high-definition cameras to capture images of the front-row cabin space of all vehicles to detect illegal mobile phone use.

The system uses artificial intelligence to automatically review images and detect offending drivers, and to exclude images of non-offending drivers from further action. Images that the automated system considers likely to contain a driver illegally using a mobile phone are verified by authorised personnel.

As with other road safety camera programs in NSW, strict controls are in place to ensure images captured by the system are securely stored and managed.

Warning letters will be issued for the first three months. Following this period, the penalty for offending drivers is five demerit points and a \$344 fine (\$457 in a school zone). The penalty increases to 10 demerit points during double demerit periods.

Background

The NSW Government outlined plans to investigate camera-based technology to enforce mobile phone use offences in its Road Safety Plan 2021.

Legislation came into effect in July 2018 that enabled NSW to pilot world-first mobile phone detection camera technology.

During the pilot, which has now concluded, the cameras checked 8.5 million vehicles and detected more than 100,000 drivers using their phones illegally.

Both fixed and transportable versions of the cameras were found to operate reliably in real world conditions.

Want to Know More?

ARTIO NSW is negotiating with the office of Bernard Carlon, Executive Director, NSW Centre for Road Safety, who has direct responsibility for this camera rollout, to speak on this topic at the next ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing on 30 October. Further details to follow.

Further information and FAQ's on rules for mobile phone use in while driving in NSW is available from <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/mobilephones/know-the-rules.html>.

Further information on the NSW Government's Road Safety Plan 2021 is available from <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/aboutthecentre/strategies/road-safety-plan-2021/index.html>.

Safe Work Australia Announces October as National Safe Work Month

October is National Safe Work Month according to SafeWork Australia.

SWA is calling on employers to raise awareness of work health and safety at their workplace. It is also calling on everyone to commit to promoting best practice WHS and a strong health and safety culture.

During October, SWA encourages stakeholders to share through their National Safe Work Month initiatives by leading and promoting a safety culture at their workplace and being a #safetychampion.

The following information is available on the SWA website:

- SWA's campaign kit, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month/campaign-kit>
- SWA's safety champion info page, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/national-safe-work-month/safety-champion-info>

To receive our updated information from SWA, go to <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/subscribe-updates> and check the box for 'National Safe Work Month' or follow SWA on social media at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/social-media>.

Industry Put on Notice in Lead Up to National Safe Work Month

Adapted from media release, Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation, Hon Kevin Anderson MP, 1 October, 2019

NSW businesses and employees have been put on notice about their obligations to make workplaces safer following a spate of fatalities and serious injuries in the lead-up to National Safe Work Month.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said SafeWork inspectors have been called to incidents in recent times involving workers from a range of sectors, including transport.

"We want everyone to make it home to their family at the end of the day, which is why we are reminding everyone of their obligations and responsibilities, not just from employers to their employees, but employees' obligations to each other," Mr Anderson said.

He said more needs to be done to get the safety message through to people and that the NSW Government will be rolling out a number of new initiatives which aim to protect workers from serious injury or death.

He also said laws need to be strengthened and attitudes need to change to target risky behaviour, before someone gets hurt, or dies.

Workers Compensation: Understanding your Premium

Employers can now find out more about how their workers compensation premium is calculated by visiting icare's website.

New pages on the site explain the formula used to calculate premiums, as well as provide examples of premium calculations for small and medium-large sized businesses.

The examples cover the impact on premiums of claims, and outline how the various discounts and adjustments are applied.

Visit www.icare.nsw.gov.au/calculateyourpremium to find out more.

icare Outlines Changes to Workers Compensation Calculations

icare has also released information outlining the key changes to the calculation of pre injury average weekly earnings (PIAWE) as a result of the commencement of schedule 3 to the Workers Compensation Legislation Amendment Act 2018 and the making of the Workers Compensation Amendment (Pre-injury Average Weekly Earnings) Regulation 2019.

The State Insurance Regulatory Agency have advised these changes will now come into effect on 21 October.

icare has advised it is working with its claim service providers to ensure claims managers are well positioned to apply the changes however it is important that employers are also aware.

SIRA have developed guidelines for employers which can be accessed at www.sira.nsw.gov.au/news/notice/piawe-reforms-start-next-month.

Big Drop in Port Botany Container Volumes

Trade statistics released by NSW Ports highlight a significant short term fall in container volumes through Port Botany.

For the two months ending 31 August, total volume, measured in 20 foot TEU terms, is down 11.65 per cent to 401.695 TEUs in 2019, compared to the same two months in 2018.

Full imports are down over the two month period by 8.3 per cent while full exports are down by 12.9 per cent.

Reserve Bank Statement Reveals Reasons for Lowering Official Interest Rates

The Reserve Bank of Australia lowered official interest rates at its meeting on 1 October to a new record low of 0.75 per cent. This is the third time the RBA has lowered official interest rates this year.

In a statement issued following the RBA's decision, RBA Governor, Philip Lowe said:

- The global economic outlook remains reasonable, however "risks are tilted on the downside" due to US-China trade tensions and a scaling back in business investment due to heightened uncertainty.
- Interest rates are low in other countries. They are set to fall lower, thus putting further pressure on the RBA to do likewise, because of the global economic outlook and low inflation rates here and in other countries.

- The 1.4% growth in Australia's Gross Domestic Product in the year to 30 June was lower than expected, although growth rates in the Australian economy were slightly higher in the first half of 2019 compared to the second half of 2018. This means there are some signs of a rebound in the Australian economy.
- Low interest rates, recent personal income tax cuts, the level of infrastructure spending, signs of stability in some housing markets and a better outlook for the resources sector should support economic growth.
- Labour demand forecasts suggest the high rate of employment growth will slow. There is little upward pressure on wages growth which remains subdued. The supply of workers exceeds the demand for workers.

Mr Lowe said in the statement that the RBA Board decided to lower official interest rates further to stimulate employment and income growth, with the aim of providing greater confidence that these measures will stimulate inflation so it can return to levels consistent with a medium term target of 2-3 per cent. He also said the reduction in official interest rates was designed to address spare capacity in the economy.

He said official interest rates can be expected to stay low for some time and that the RBA is prepared to ease monetary policy further to encourage the economy to achieve full employment and its inflation target.

NHVR Says Interest in Electronic Work Diaries is Growing

The NHVR says it is currently assessing a number of applications for approval as Electronic Work Diaries.

NHVR Executive Director Safety Standards and Assurance, Geoff Casey, said the current round of applications were of a varying quality after a number of earlier applications had fallen short of requirements.

"NHVR officers have recently met with a number of technology providers to ensure they are clear about our requirements for regulatory EWDs and to better facilitate the assessment so they can finalise their applications," Mr Casey said.

He said applications range from an app that can be used on a tablet to a hardware solution that is similar to some of the existing non-regulatory NHVR approved electronic recording systems currently being used by operators.

Monash University Driving Health Survey

Monash University has advised it is launching a confidential Driving Health Survey as part of its National Transport Industry Health and Wellbeing Study which aims to help improve the health of drivers in the industry and to make the industry safer.

Drivers can take the survey, which the university says takes 10 minutes, at www.drivinghealth.net.

Transport for NSW Suspends Victorian's Driver's License Following Broughton Pass Incident

A Victorian truck driver who got his B Double stuck in Broughton Pass in July has had his right to drive in NSW suspended for three months.

Transport for NSW Director Compliance, Roger Weeks, said the decision to suspend the visiting privileges of the driver and truck and trailer combination followed careful consideration of the incident's impact on the local community.

The oversized truck caused damage to the road infrastructure and obstructed traffic, causing a 45 minute detour," Mr Weeks said.

He said it took more than four hours to free the prime mover after it collided with safety barriers on entry to the Cataract River bridge and then about two weeks to repair the barriers following the incident.

Mr Weeks said these facts were considered and it was found to be appropriate to remove the driver's right to drive.

He said Transport for NSW hopes the penalties handed to this driver and the company's vehicles will serve as a warning to other operators to ensure they are always using approved heavy vehicle routes in NSW.

TCA Announces First Certification of Hill Descent Monitoring Application

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

Transport Certification Australia has announced BlackBox Control as the first new certified service provider of Hill Descent Monitoring, a new application of the National Telematics Framework.

TCA says HDM manages the risks associated with heavy vehicles travelling down long or steep hill descents. It monitors heavy vehicle speed on descent on a nominated route, and indicates if a driver has performed safety checks before the descent.

It says Main Roads WA is using HDM to trial the operation of Category 7 (A) AB-Triple combinations travelling down Roelands Hill on the Coalfields Hwy.

TCA says Main Roads WA will extend the approved network for Category 7 (A) AB-Triple combinations participating in the trial from the section of Coalfields Highway already approved, to the South Western Hwy.

It says the use of HDM by Main Roads WA demonstrates how advancements to productivity and safety can be realised, offering benefits to road managers, regulators and the transport sector.

Further information on HDM is available from the TCA website, <https://www.tca.gov.au/ntf/applications#hdm>.

Further information on the WA trial is available from the Main Roads WA website, <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/UsingRoads/HVS/Pages/Access-Trials.aspx>.

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.

ARTIO NSW also hopes to have Bernard Carlon, Executive Director, NSW Centre for Road Safety speak at the Briefing on the rollout of mobile phone detection camera program.

Reduced Speed Limits to Apply in Mascot, Alexandria and Zetland

Adapted from media release, Transport for NSW, 3 October, 2019

Transport for NSW says that stretches of O'Riordan, Collins and Coward streets, and parts of Kent and Bourke roads will have a 50 km/h limit from Sunday 13 October.

It says the speed limit is being lowered from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, to improve safety and reduce both crashes and speeding infringements.

Centre for Road Safety Executive Director Bernard Carlon said crash data shows that between 2014 and 2018 there were 149 crashes on this stretch of O'Riordan St, with 134 people injured, 20 seriously.

Road Works Update

M4 Motorway: Cumberland Hwy Eastbound On Ramp Closure, 4-8 October

RMS has advised that the Cumberland Hwy eastbound on-ramp at Greystanes will be closed for three nights, from Tuesday 8 October to Friday 11 October, from 9pm to 4am, to install Intelligent Traffic System infrastructure.

Cross City Tunnel

Transport for NSW has advised that the Cross City Tunnel will be closed for maintenance work between 10pm and 5am from Tuesday 8 October to Friday 11 October.

Westbound traffic is being diverted via Craigend St. Eastbound traffic is being diverted via William St.

Traffic Management Changes, Airport East Underpass

Transport for NSW has advised that both right turn lanes from Botany Rd into Mill Pond Dr closed on 30 September, to boost network efficiency and get road users where they need to be sooner.

It encourages all road users to make the most of the new Wentworth Ave underpass at Mascot, which, along with changed traffic conditions on Botany Rd, aims to help improve access and reduce congestion east of Sydney Airport.

Albion Park Rail: East-West Link at the Princes Hwy

Transport for NSW has advised that the Albion Park Rail East-West Link at the Princes Hwy is closed in both directions on the following day/times until the scheduled completion of work on 13 August, 2020:

- Thursdays: 7pm to 6am.
- Fridays: 7pm to 6am.
- Sundays: 7pm to midnight.
- Mondays: all day.
- Tuesday s: midnight to 6am.

Albion Park Rail-Albion Park: Illawarra Hwy between Princes Hwy and Terry St

Transport for NSW has advised that the Illawarra Hwy between Princes Hwy and Terry St is closed on weekdays from 7am to 7pm and on Saturdays from 8am to 5pm until the scheduled completion of work on 4 November, 2022.

Mona Vale Rd, Mona Vale

Transport for NSW has advised that motorists travelling along Mona Vale Rd near Pittwater RSL can expect to see changed traffic conditions from next week as part of the Mona Vale Rd East upgrade.

Work will start on the eastern end of the upgrade between Mona Vale General Cemetery and Foley St.

Mona Vale Rd will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Emma St and Foley St.

Westbound motorists travelling along Mona Vale Rd will also be unable to turn right onto Emma St.

LH Ford Bridge, Newell Hwy, Dubbo

RMS has advised that lane closures are in place while work is carried out at the LH Ford Bridge, Newell Hwy, Dubbo.

Detours are in place for vehicles over 3m in width via Wheelers La, Golden Hwy and Newell Hwy.

Work hours are 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Work will continue till 10 January, 2020.

Maintenance at Swan Hill Bridge Complete

RMS has advised that work on the Swan Hill Bridge was completed in September, removing the width restriction for heavy vehicles.

It says further work will be carried out in 2020.

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
Hurstville	Queens Rd from The Avenue to Croydon Rd	3/11/19-14/2/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Monterey	President Ave from The Grand Pde to O'Connell St	20/10-20/12/19	18	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Moorebank	Heathcote Rd from Newbridge Rd to Market St	13-10-29/11/19	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
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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)	Jun Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.6
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.75	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	4 Oct 2019	Million	25,479	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
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Jun Qtr 2019	\$m	161,678	0.3
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Aug 2019	Number	12,864	-25.9
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Jun 2019	\$m	81,007	-4.0
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	2 months to Aug 2019	Number	401,695	-11.7
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)	9 months to Sep 2019	Number	811,464	-7.9
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	4 Oct 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	138.1	-8.0

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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.