



Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

New South Wales Branch

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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Bushfires: Do You Need Help?

A number of ARTIO NSW Members have been directly impacted by the bushfires.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ARTIO NSW secretariat, telephone, 0412 880861, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au, if you require any assistance.

Road Access During Natural Disasters

Members will appreciate that bushfires and other natural disasters are unfolding across Australia.

To assist Members with advice on road closures during such events, jurisdictions have websites which can assist in journey planning. These are:

- **Victoria:** <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>.
- **Queensland:** <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>.
- **SA:** <https://traffic.sa.gov.au/#mapo>.
- **ACT:** https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/roads-and-paths/act_public_road_closures
- **WA:** <https://mrw-aue-tvImp-appsrv-prd.azurewebsites.net/Home/Map>
- **Tasmania:** <http://alert.tas.gov.au/Pages/Map.aspx>
- **NT:** <https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/road-map>

A reminder that information on road closures in NSW can be found at <https://www.livetraffic.com/desktop.html>.

NHVR Bushfire Recovery Information

The NHVR has released bushfire recovery information to assist transport operators.

This provides information and website links related to:

- Heavy vehicle access across bushfire affected areas:
 - Emergency fatigue provisions – what you can and can't do.
 - Eyre Hwy access. (**NB:** Roads can be opened and closed at short notice. **Example:** ARTIO NSW has been advised that the Eyre Hwy between Norseman and Caiguna in WA has been reopened this morning. This reinforces the importance of journey planning and checking the appropriate website/s nominated above.)
 - OSOM permits.
 - Road closures.
 - Contacts for fire information.
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Helping Those Affected by the Bushfires

In response to the bushfires, many transport operators are working closely with emergency services authorities to ensure the essentials of life are being provided to those in need, to support the restoration of infrastructure, and in other ways.

Donations

Many Australians have pledged their support in cash or in kind to those directly affected by the bushfires.

Authorities are urging donors to give cash and not clothes, food or the like.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has also warned of scammers seeking donations. Further information is available from <https://www.accc.gov.au/update/bushfires-and-scams>

The ATO has advice on donations to assist disaster victims which is available at <https://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/dealing-with-disasters/donations-to-assist-disaster-victims/>.

Organisations accepting donations include:

- NSW Rural Fire Service: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/about-us/fundraising>.
- Red Cross – Disaster Relief and Recovery: <https://www.redcross.org.au/campaigns/disaster-relief-and-recovery-donate>.
- RSPCA NSW Bushfire Appeal: <https://www.rspcansw.org.au/bushfire-appeal>.
- St Vincent de Paul NSW Vinnies Bushfire Appeal: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>.
- Salvation Army Donate to the Disaster Appeal: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/donate/make-a-donation/donate-online>.

Organisations in other jurisdictions will also accept donations to assist those in need.

NSW Government Commits \$1 Billion to Bushfire Impacted Communities

Adapted from media release, Gladys Berejiklian, Premier, and Dominic Perrottet, Treasurer, 9 January, 2020

The NSW Government has announced \$1 billion will be spent over the next two years to rebuild bushfire impacted communities across NSW.

The additional funding will prioritise the repair and rebuilding of vital infrastructure, including roads, rail-lines and bridges, which have been damaged or destroyed by bushfires.

“This money will provide an immediate source of funding to ensure key infrastructure is restored so that communities can get back on their feet as soon as possible,” Ms Berejiklian said.

Mr Perrottet said the \$1 billion fund would ensure recovery work could commence without delay and will also have a secondary benefit of stimulating local economies hit hard by bushfires.

This announcement is on top of the NSW Government’s disaster assistance funding for this bushfire season of up to \$231 million already committed.

Ms Berejiklian said following initial discussions with the Federal Government, it has been confirmed that the Federal Government contribution will focus on direct payments to individuals, small business and local councils.

“The NSW Government’s focus will be to rebuild and where appropriate, improve the infrastructure,” Ms Berejiklian said.

Waste Levies Waived in Local Councils Affected by Bushfires

Waste levies have been waived in over 40 NSW local councils where residents have been affected by bushfires.

For a full list of Councils where the waste levy exemption applies, please visit <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/news/2019/waste-levy-waived-in-bushfire-natural-disaster-areas>.

Transport, Police, Urge Road Users to Prioritise Road Safety in 2020

Adapted from media release, Bernard Carlon, Executive Director, NSW Centre for Road Safety, and Michael Corboy, Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner, NSW Police Force, 2 January, 2020

The Executive Director of the Centre for Road Safety Bernard Carlon, and the Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, NSW Police Force Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, have appealed to everyone to make road safety a priority in 2020 after 352 people lost their lives on NSW roads in 2019 – five more than in 2018.

Mr Carlon said that over the past decade there has been a significant fall in the death of young people aged 17 to 20 on our roads.

He said NSW Centre for Road Safety research shows there has also been a large reduction in pedestrian deaths on NSW roads which have fallen from 69 in 2018 to 46 in 2019.

However, he said 115 men aged 30 to 59 died on NSW roads, up by 13 on the previous year.

He said NSW Centre for Road Safety research shows that men admit to taking more risks when they drive alone – especially speeding.

Mr Carlon said speeding is once again the biggest killer on NSW roads – 138 people (about 39%) lost their lives because someone was driving too fast in 2019.

He said drug driving, drink driving and fatigue each individually contributed to about 20% of deaths.

NSW Centre for Road Safety research shows an increase in fatalities for motorcyclists, up from 54 to 67, and an increase in fatal crashes where a vehicle has run off a straight road from 63 to 75.

Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, said he was heartened by the reduction in pedestrian deaths over the past 12 months as police have implemented a high-visibility campaign targeting people who cross roads illegally.

“With the current bushfire emergency continuing, numerous roads closures are in place and motorists are advised to take extra care when driving in affected areas,” Assistant Commissioner Corboy said

Drivers are reminded to give way to emergency vehicles, especially in areas which have been impacted by bushfires.

icare Issues Video to Assist Small Employers with Premium Renewals

icare has released a video to assist small employers with workers insurance renewals.

icare says policies will now renew automatically and icare will take care of most of the paperwork. It says it will send an invitation to renew a policy four weeks prior to renewal.

Further information is available from <https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/employers/manage-your-policy/renew-your-policy/>.

icare Announces New Claims Management Choice for Large Business Customers

icare are announcing which claims management providers will be available to provide claims management services for eligible large business customers under its Authorised Provider model.

From this year, eligible customers will have the choice of the following Authorised Providers for new claims management services.

icare said Allianz and GIO will offer new claims management services for eligible customers from 1 February 2020, with QBE to start by mid-2020.

icare said EML will continue to provide claims management services for new claims for more than 320,000 employers across NSW.

More information about the Authorised Provider model is available at www.icare.nsw.gov.au/authorisedprovider.

Company Fined \$132k for Radiation Security and Safety Breaches

Adapted from media release, NSW Environment Protection Authority, 20 December, 2019

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has announced that the NSW Land and Environment Court has fined Gammasonics Institute for Medical Research Pty Ltd a total of \$132,000 for radiation offences relating to the transport and storage of a radioactive device in Sydney.

The EPA said it prosecuted Gammasonics for three offences under Radiation Control legislation.

Two of the charges related to Gammasonics transporting an irradiator, a medical device used for sterilising blood in breach of its security transport plan and the safety requirements of Radiation Control legislation.

The EPA said Gammasonics moved the sealed device in a dangerous goods container on an open flatbed truck without satellite tracking. It said the driver was not told the cargo was radioactive, that police must be contacted in the event of any threats to the container, and no identity checks were carried out on the transport team.

The third charge arose when Gammasonics failed to have a security plan in place for the irradiator once it had arrived at premises in Lane Cove.

The EPA said Gammasonics pleaded guilty to all three charges.

In handing down her sentence Justice Sandra Duggan said 'the actual transport of radioactive material is a situation where inherent risks are exacerbated'.

“The transportation from the premises along public roads exposes the container to risks such as accident and theft.

“The failure to comply with a plan specifically designed to ameliorate these transport risks is a serious omission.”

The EPA contended during the hearing that although the risk was small, if damaged during the move, radiation from the irradiator could have been fatal to anyone with direct contact.

EPA Executive Director Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health Steve Beaman said licencing and regulation was in place to protect the public and the environment.

Gammasonics was also ordered to pay the EPA's legal costs.

TCA Approves V-DAQ as First Registered Provider of Road Infrastructure Management

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 20 December, 2019

Transport Certification Australia has announced V-DAQ as the first approved registered provider of Road Infrastructure Management, an application of TCA's National Telematics Framework.

TCA says V-DAQ is an Australian company that provides the opportunity of intelligence and connectivity to vehicles using its high precision telematics device and data distribution platform.

It says V-DAQ makes it easy for transport operators to benefit from data across a range of applications and services, such as asset management and smart infrastructure integration.

“At V-DAQ, we work hand-in-hand with advanced and emerging technologies to provide industry leading products and services to a wide range of applications,” said Rylan Kolb, Managing Director at V-DAQ. “We're delighted to be a part of RIM.”

As the first provider registered for RIM, V-DAQ can now provide the RIM application to the market.

A key element of the RIM application is that transport operators can use their existing telematics devices and providers.

Road Works Update

Temporary Traffic Changes, Yamba Interchange, Pacific Highway

Transport for NSW has advised that there will be temporary traffic changes on the Pacific Hwy at the Yamba interchange from mid-January, weather permitting.

The new heavy vehicle underpass will be temporarily closed for about six weeks while drainage work, removal of the old highway pavement and asphaltting is carried out.

Vehicles higher than 4.1 metres must use the existing underpass between Yamba Rd and the Clarence River.

Northbound motorists travelling from areas such as James Creek, Palmers Island and Yamba will access the interchange by heading west on Yamba Rd, travelling under the two bridges and turning left.

Motorists will be kept informed about dates for these changes.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Eastlakes, Daceyville, Kingsford	Gardeners Rd from Racecourse Pl to Bunnerong Rd	6/1-28/2/20	14	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Hurstville	Queens Rd between Dora St and Croydon Rd	6/1-14/2/20	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Milperra	Henry Lawson Dr; cnr Henry Lawson Dr and Newbridge Rd	2/2-1/5/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
St Peters	Princes Hwy north Canal Rd intersection	6/1-14/2/20	N/A	7am-6pm Sun-Fri
Sylvania	Princes Hwy from Tom Ugly's Bridge to Yeran St	6/1-14/2/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	\$m	477,305	1.8
CPI (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.7
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.75	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	10 Jan 2020	Million	25,565	1.4
Retail turnover (ABS)	Oct 2019	\$m	27,594	2.3
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	\$m	29,346	-0.6
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Sep 2019	\$m	164,840	-0.7
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Nov 2019	Number	13,758	-11.8
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Sep 2019	\$m	83,210	-3.6
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	5 months to Nov 2019	Number	1,092,430	-4.5
Employed persons (ABS)	Nov 2019	Million	12.962	2.1
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Nov 2019	Per cent	5.2	0.2
Wage price Index (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.2
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.6
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	12 months to Dec 2019	Number	1,062,867	-7.8
Cab Chassis/Prime Mover Sales (TIC)	9 months to Sep 2019	Number	23,747	-8.6
Vans (TIC)	9 months to Sep 2019	Number	4,803	3.0
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	10 Jan 2020	Cents/litre incl. GST	141.5	14.3

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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.