



Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

New South Wales Branch

PO Box 277
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220
Tel: 0412 880861
Fax: 02 9579 2333
Email: hughmc@artionsw.com.au
ABN: 93149961882

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Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Reminder: NSW and Queensland Bushfires

ARTIO NSW takes this opportunity to remind Members that existing fire patterns and forecast weather conditions mean that emergency response authorities can be expected to either close roads, or restrict access thereto at short notice.

Stay up to date as follows:

- Fire conditions: NSW at Firesnearme.com; Queensland at ruralfire.qld.gov.au.
- Information on road closures and other access restrictions: NSW at Livetraffic.com; Queensland at qldtraffic.qld.gov.au.

ARTIO Lodges Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Industry

ARTIO has lodged its submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee's Inquiry into the Importance of a Viable, Safe, Sustainable and Efficient Road Transport Industry.

The submission calls for a "minimum suite of standards" around wages, conditions and entitlements to employees and contractors who perform the road transport and logistics task.

The submission also highlights the potential for the abuse of contractors supplying transport services in the "gig" economy. It says that structures are at best inadequate to protect workers engaged on a "gig" basis because the law does not regard them as employees, meaning there are no industrial instruments available to pay them, nor is there any protection under the principle of "common law contract".

ARTIO NSW has not lodged a submission to this inquiry on the basis that ARTIO is speaking on behalf of ARTIO NSW Members.

ACCC Container Stevedoring Report Shows Sharp Rise in Infrastructure Charges Revenue

Adapted from advice, Victorian Transport Association

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has released its annual Container Stevedore Monitoring Report which examines the performance of stevedores operating at Australia's ports during the last financial year.

Key findings include:

- A general weakening of the economy has seen demand for stevedoring services decline, evidenced by a drop in crane lifts for only the second time in a decade;
- Higher infrastructure charges are driving unit revenue growth for the stevedores. The industry generated \$167 million in revenue from infrastructure charges last financial year – an increase of 63 per cent;
- Some industry profitability indicators fell in 2018-19, continuing a trend from recent years. Industry operating profit fell by 4.7 per cent to \$81.3 million and operating profit margin fell to 5.9 per cent; and
- Key indicators of quayside productivity went up by more than 5 per cent, with the productivity of Australian container ports now on par with international ports of similar size and characteristics.

However, the ACCC report showed truck turnaround times have worsened to an average of 29.3 minutes nationally. This is despite stevedores continuing to introduce - and increase - infrastructure surcharges across their terminals.

As the ACCC report makes clear, landside transport operators are effectively underwriting the profitability and revenue of stevedores through the proliferation of infrastructure charges. However, container transport operators face a monopolistic trading environment and limitations in how they can respond to those charges, in contrast to the competitive market in which stevedores provide services to shipping lines.

A copy of the report is available from <https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/Container%20Stevedoring%20Monitoring%20Report%20-%202018-19.pdf>.

Rate of Private Sector Wages Growth Drifts Lower but Rises in Transport

Annual wage growth rates excluding bonuses in the private sector drifted lower to 2.2 per cent for the year ending 30 September 2019 after being stuck at 2.3 per cent for 12 months, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

This result confirms the pattern evident in the Australian labour market for some time of private sector wage growth rates being just above 2 per cent.

The ABS data shows that wages in the transport, postal and warehousing sector grew by 2.6 per cent in the year ending 30 September 2019, compared to an annual growth rate of 2.4 per cent for the year ending 30 June 2019.

Federal Government Expands Personal Use Exemption to AFM, BFM

Adapted from joint media release, Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport and Sal Petrocitto, CEO, NHVR, 4 November, 2019

The Federal Government has extended an initiative that will make it easier and more flexible for truck drivers to use their vehicles outside work hours.

Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz said the Government had worked with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to extend the Personal Use Exemption for drivers operating under Basic Fatigue Management and Advanced Fatigue Management.

Mr Buchholz said this change will mean drivers operating under BFM and AFM will have an additional hour to use their fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle for personal use, including going to the shops, replenishing personal supplies, washing vehicles or getting to a place to sleep.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said the NHVR wants to enable flexibility for operators with good safety records through initiatives like AFM and BFM.

Vehicle Standards Applications to be Tracked in Real Time says NHVR

The NHVR has advised that transport operators will be able to track, in real time, the status of their Vehicle Standards applications in the NHVR Portal from Wednesday 20 November.

It says that the new 'Case Management' function will allow operators to log in any time and see the status of their applications in just a few clicks. This ability to 'self-service' will mean operators will no longer need to call the NHVR for updates on processing times.

The new feature follows the launch of the Vehicle Standards service in the NHVR Portal last month, which now allows operators to apply for In-Principle Support, Vehicle Standards Exemption Permits and Heavy Vehicle Modification Approvals in the NHVR Portal.

The NHVR is holding a webinar to demonstrate the new feature. To register, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/webinar-nhvr-portal-new-features-in-release-61-brisbane-time-tickets-81252920673>.

Speed Limit Changes on the M4 Motorway

Transport for NSW has advised that original speed limits have been reinstated along the M4 Motorway between Mays Hill and Penrith.

Transport for NSW Executive Director Sydney John Hardwick said the speed limit will be reinstated along a number of sections of the M4 Motorway including between Mulgoa Rd and The Northern Rd in both directions.

He also said that as the project nears completion, original speed limits will be reinstated across the next few months which will provide more consistent journeys for motorists.

TCA Announces Transport Compliance Services as a Service Provider of Hill Descent Monitoring

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 31 October, 2019

Transport Compliance Services, a subsidiary of MTData, is now a certified service provider of Hill Descent Monitoring according to Transport Certification Australia.

TCA says the HDM application 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.

Main Roads Western Australia is the first jurisdiction to make use of the HDM application. Results of their initial trial of HDM will inform future network access decisions.

HDM may be applied by road managers or regulators as a condition of road network use for specific kinds of vehicles at high risk locations – they will advise transport operators if HDM is a condition of access.

The application can also be used by transport operators who want to better manage the safe use of their vehicles, and obtain access benefits.

As with all other applications of the National Telematics Framework, HDM references common building blocks including the Telematics Data Exchange and associated Business Rules.

“We are delighted to become certified by TCA to offer the new HDM application,” Head of Operations at MTData/TCS, Dennis Turner said.

Road Works Update

M4 Motorway, Ramp Closure Eastbound Off Ramp to the M7 Motorway, 17 November to 13 December

RMS has advised that the M4 Motorway eastbound off ramp to the M7 Motorway will be closed overnight from 17 November to 13 December on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 8pm to 4am.

M4 Motorway, Ramp Closure Westbound Off Ramp to the M7 Motorway, 18-21 November – 13 December

RMS advises that the M4 Motorway westbound off ramp to the M7 Motorway will be closed overnight from 18 to 21 November from 10pm to 5am.

M4 Motorway, Ramp Closure Westbound Off Ramp to Woodville Rd/Church St, 18-21 November

RMS has advised that the M4 Motorway westbound off ramp to Woodville Rd/Church St will be closed between 10pm and midnight, 18-21 November.

M4 Motorway, Ramp Closures, 18-19 November

A reminder that RMS has advised that the M4 Motorway will be closed on Monday, 18 November from 11pm until 4am Tuesday 19 November.

RMS says that light and heavy vehicles will be diverted onto the Great Western Highway from the Cumberland Highway and Reservoir Road.

It says the following ramps will be closed:

- 10pm: Church Street westbound on ramp
Reservoir Road eastbound on ramp
- 11pm Cumberland Highway westbound on ramp
Prospect Highway westbound on ramp
Prospect Highway eastbound on ramp

M1 Motorway Northbound, Closure between Pennant Hills Rd and Pacific Hwy, Wahroonga, 20-29 November

RMS has advised that lane closures will take place on the M1 Motorway northbound between Pennant Hills Rd and Pacific Hwy, Wahroonga from 20 to 29 November, from 11pm to 5am on Wednesday, Monday and Tuesday nights.

M1 Motorway Northbound, Tuggerah to Doyalson, Scheduled Lane Closures, 15-16 November

RMS has advised that lane closures will take place on the M1 Motorway northbound between Tuggerah and Doyalson, from 10pm, 15 November, to 6am, 16 November.

M1 Motorway Southbound offramp, Central Coast Hwy, Scheduled Lane Closures, 19-21 November

RMS has advised that lane closures will take place on the M1 Motorway southbound near the offramp, Central Coast Hwy, overnight from 8pm to 4am, from 19 to 21 November.

Closure, Goulburn St Sydney between Pitt and Sussex Sts, 15-18 November

RMS has advised that Goulburn St Sydney will be closed between Pitt and Sussex Sts from 10pm to 5am from 15-18 November.

Road Closures, Parramatta Light Rail, 15-18 November

RMS has advised that the following streets will be closed from 15 November to 18 November:

- O’Connell St, North Parramatta. between Barney St and Albert St. from 11pm 15 November to 6am 18 November.
- Victoria Rd between O’Connell St and Villiers St/Marist PI from 11pm 15 November to 5am 18 November.

South Dowling St Southbound between Todman Ave and Cleveland St to 29 November

RMS has advised that scheduled lane closures will occur on South Dowling St southbound between Todman Ave and Cleveland St to 29 November on the following nights:

- 9.30pm to 5am on Sunday to Wednesday;
- 10pm to 5am on Thursday.

Illawarra Hwy from 26-28 November

RMS has advised that the Illawarra Hwy will be closed between Tongarra La and Mt Murray Rd from 9am to 3pm on 26-28 November.

Cambewarra Mountain Day Closures from Monday 2 December

RMS has advised that it will carry out essential work on Moss Vale Rd, Cambewarra Mountain.

Work will be carried out for seven days between 9am and 3pm, weather permitting from 2 to 5 December and from 9 to 11 December.

The road will be closed in both directions. Light vehicles can detour via Kangaroo Valley Road and Tourist Rd.

Vehicles over 7.5 metres or 12 tonnes will need to detour via the Illawarra and Princes highways.

Gwydir Hwy, South Grafton, 22-25 November

RMS has advised that road works will take place on the Gwydir Hwy (Charles St), South Grafton near the intersection of the Pacific Hwy.

Gwydir Hwy will be closed in both directions from 7am on 22 November to 5am on 25 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
Ryde	Devlin St from Church La to Pope St	18/11-29/11/19	3	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)	15 Nov 2019	Million	25,523	1.6
Retail turnover (ABS)	Sep 2019	\$m	27,563	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)	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)	Oct 2019	Million	12.936	2.1
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Oct 2019	Per cent	5.3	0.2

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.

Wage price Index (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.2
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.6
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	10 months to Oct 2019	Number	893,920	-8.0
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	15 Nov 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	134.5	-4.6

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