



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

The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Contents

1. ARTIO NSW Christmas/New Year Office Arrangements
2. Reminder: Bushfire Alert
3. Transport for NSW Seeking Industry Feedback on Priority Locations for New Informal Rest Areas
4. Road Infrastructure Management Application Extended to Port Botany Container Transport
5. Steer Axle Limits Increased for Road Trains
6. Transport for NSW Launches Freight Data Hub
7. Transport Certification Australia Praises Transport for NSW Freight Data Hub Launch
8. NHVR Releases Draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-2025 for Comment
9. Biosecurity Charges to Rise from 1 January 2020
10. NHVR Takes Over On-Road Compliance and Escort Services in Victoria
11. New Clearway, Milperra to Hurlstone Park
12. Road Works Update
13. Economic and Industry Indicators

ARTIO NSW Christmas/New Year Office Arrangements

The ARTIO NSW office will close today, Friday 20 December, and reopen on Monday, 6 January. However, if you need assistance or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer.

Thank you for your support in 2019. Have a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous 2020.

Reminder: Bushfire Alert

With no sign of an easing in the bushfire situation across many parts of NSW, ARTIO NSW takes this opportunity to remind Members to stay vigilant.

ARTIO NSW reminds Members:

- The Premier declared a week long state of emergency commencing on 20 December.
- Under the NSW *State of Emergency and Rescue Management Act*, a state of emergency can be declared. Any legal barrier which may impede the authority of responsible emergency services personnel does not apply.
- Authority to act will rest with Rural Fire Services Chief, Shane Fitzgibbon, who has powers of delegation.
- The emergency declaration grants emergency powers to the RFS, including the coordination of evacuations, extended access to government resources, traffic redirections, the power to shore up or demolish buildings, and power to shut down gas, electricity, oil and water services.
- Disobeying orders under these powers, including orders to the public to leave an area, would be illegal.

More information about the fires in NSW can be found at [Firesnearme.com](https://firesnearme.com).

Information on road closures can be found at [Livetraffic.com](https://livetraffic.com).

Please check the status of both bushfires and road conditions by using these websites before commencing or resuming a journey.

Transport for NSW Seeking Industry Feedback on Priority Locations for New Informal Rest Areas

Transport for NSW recently published a technical guide on Marking Informal Heavy Vehicle Stopping Areas with Green Reflectors in NSW with its purpose to provide guidance for the consistent implementation and ongoing preservation of informal heavy vehicle stopping sites across NSW.

TfNSW is seeking feedback from industry on priority locations for new sites for informal heavy vehicle stopping areas, including site requirements (i.e., minimum area, site surface conditions, sight distance, access to site and surroundings).

Feedback on priority locations for new sites to include: a site description, name and location of road and closest intersection, can be sent to roadfreight@rms.nsw.gov.au.

Road Infrastructure Management Application Extended to Port Botany Container Transport

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 18 December, 2019

Transport Certification Australia says road managers and regulators are now using its Road Manager Application (RIM) to drive productivity and safety reforms, while reducing costs.

TCA says RIM enables the collection of road use data from vehicles fitted with a telematics devices.

Transport for NSW has further expanded the use of the RIM application with the release of the *New South Wales Class 3 Port Botany Container Transportation Mass Exemption Notice 2019 (No. 1)*. This is the second use of the new RIM application in NSW following the Safety, Productivity and Environment Construction Transport Scheme, which is used in the construction materials sector.

TCA says the Port Botany Notice is aimed at:

- Improving safe, efficient and compliant movement of containers.
- Increasing the ability for road managers to make improved access and road infrastructure investment decisions, through the collection of road use data using RIM.

It allows eligible heavy vehicles carrying containers to operate at axle group masses consistent with Concessional Mass Limits when fitted with vehicle safety equipment and telematics monitoring. The Notice enables travel to or from a prescribed stevedore terminal at Port Botany on approved routes within the greater Sydney area.

Eligible heavy vehicles must also meet the following additional conditions:

- Be enrolled in TCA's RIM application.
- Be fitted with safety systems including lane departure warning systems, emergency braking systems, vehicle braking systems, electronic stability control systems and trailer braking systems.

TCA says the RIM application provides an efficient, standardised way of collecting and analysing telematics data from vehicles, and incorporates safeguards to ensure transport operator and vehicle-specific data is protected.

Road managers and regulators use the Telematics Analytics Platform to view map-based representations of data collected through the RIM application to optimise access decisions, network maintenance and infrastructure investment.

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

Steer Axle Limits Increased for Road Trains

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has amended the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation.

This Regulation permits an increase in the mass on steer axles for road train prime movers from 6.7 tonnes to 7.1 tonnes.

An Information Sheet issued by the NHVR which explains this increase is available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/fscp0004-nhvr-info-sheet-steer-axle-mass-limits-for-road-trains-wn.pdf>.

Transport for NSW Launches Freight Data Hub

Transport for NSW has launched its Freight Data Hub with new data sets including an interactive telematics heavy vehicle map and volumetric data sets at key international gateways.

TfNSW says its goal is to provide access to data that can be used to support planning for freight and the development of technologies which will improve the efficiency of the freight and logistics industry. TfNSW is also interested in partnering with industry to expand the data sets it hosts on the Hub.

As technology continues to revolutionise logistics TfNSW says it is keen to publish and link to data sets relevant to our customers. The increasing freight task and shifting consumer behaviours to online shopping will mean more goods need to be moved in shorter timeframes with greater reliability.

The Freight Data Hub will make available a wider variety of freight data to enable connections between data sets and their mashing-up to draw out new insights.

TfNSW has also published an interactive telematics map showing counts for high productivity vehicles.

NSW is the first jurisdiction to publish interactive telematics data for heavy vehicles in Australia.

The telematics data is made available from Transport Certification Australia. TfNSW says TCA de-identifies and aggregates the telematics data, which gives certainty to industry that transport operator or vehicle-specific data is protected.

This will assist in allowing industry and government network planners to give new and more in-depth insights into some of the most important freight routes in NSW.

Further exciting updates will come as we build out the capabilities of the telematics data. TfNSW says it will take industry with it as it expands the dataset and ensure the data is anonymised to protect commercially sensitive information and privacy.

New volumetric data for Port Botany, the Port of Newcastle, Port Kembla and Kingsford Smith Airport has also been published by TfNSW.

The NSW Freight Data Hub will also expand upon the range of data available on the Australian Government Freight Performance Dashboard and complement the National Freight Data Hub.

TfNSW will continue to make improvements to the data in collaboration with industry. TfNSW says it welcomes feedback on how the data is used and suggested improvements – email comments to freight@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Further information on the Freight Data Hub is available from https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/data-and-research/freight-data?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Launch%20of%20TFNSW%20Freight%20Data%20Hub_all&utm_content=Launch%20of%20TFNSW%20Freight%20Data%20Hub_all+CID_2d380f471ccb631f4cf57ab25e3faad4&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Freight%20Data%20Hub

Transport Certification Australia Praises Transport for NSW Freight Data Hub Launch

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 18 December, 2019

Transport Certification Australia commends Transport for NSW for taking the lead in publishing road freight data through the NSW Freight Data Hub.

TCA says it has worked closely with TFNSW to develop interactive maps which provide unparalleled insights into vehicle movements across the NSW road network.

With NSW being the first to publish this kind of analysis, it provides valuable insights into the movement of freight vehicles across NSW.

The interactive map presents heavy vehicle data for individual road segments, including journey counts and bi-directional movements.

Reports from the NSW Freight Data Hub are derived from applications administered through the National Telematics Framework.

TCA says it performs a critical, independent role between industry and government in collecting, de-identifying and aggregating telematics data for broader use. This provides certainty to stakeholders that:

- Transport operator and vehicle-specific data is protected.
 - Commercially sensitive information is securely managed.
 - Privacy-by-design principles are upheld.
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NHVR Releases Draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-2025 for Comment

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has released its draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020–2025 and is inviting comment from stakeholders, including industry.

It says this feedback will be used to inform the final Plan and accompanying Action Plan, with the release date for these currently expected to be in mid-2020.

Submissions must be made via email to info@nhvr.gov.au by 5pm AEST, 13 March, 2020.

The NHVR's draft Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020–2025 is available from <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201912-1127-draft-heavy-vehicle-productivity-plan-2020-2025.pdf>

Biosecurity Charges to Rise from 1 January 2020

The Federal Department of Agriculture has announced that under its Biosecurity Cost Recovery Implementation Statement, biosecurity charges will increase from 1 January, 2020.

The department provides services for importers, approved arrangements, vessels, and post entry quarantine.

It says this follows the Australian Government's decision to expand biosecurity cost recovery arrangements.

It also says the changes are necessary to help manage the risk of pest and disease incursions posed by goods and vessels entering Australia.

Increased charges include:

- Full Import Declaration charge—air from \$33 to \$38
- Full Import Declaration charge—sea from \$42 to \$49
- Vessels greater than or equal to 25 metres—arrival charge from \$920 to \$1054
- Vessels less than 25 metres—arrival charge from \$100 to \$120.

Further information is available from: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/fees/cost-recovery/biosecurity-cris>.

NHVR Takes Over On-Road Compliance and Escort Services in Victoria

Adapted from media release, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 10 December, 2019

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced that all VicRoads on-road services have transitioned to the NHVR.

“As a national regulator, the NHVR can provide nationally consistent training and enforcement methods and resources, and undertake more complex, cross-border Chain of Responsibility investigations,” NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio, said.

He said borderless delivery of these services is another step towards consistency that supports productivity for operators and makes our roads safer for everyone.

New Clearway, Milperra to Hurlstone Park

Transport for NSW has advised that new clearways are now operational in both directions on Milperra Rd and Canterbury Rd from Henry Lawson Dr at Milperra to New Canterbury Rd at Hurlstone Park.

The clearways operate from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and from 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

Road Works Update

Ramp Closure: M7 Motorway Westbound On-Ramp to M4 Motorway, 8 to 11 January

Transport for NSW has advised that it will close the M7 Motorway westbound on-ramp to the M4 Motorway for three nights between Wednesday, 8 January and Saturday, 11 January, from 9pm to 4am.

M4 Church St Off Ramp Extensions

Adapted from media release, Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport and Roads, 9 December, 2019

The Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance, has announced the completion of the eastbound left turn lane extension to help reduce traffic queues and improve the efficiency and safety of the off ramp, especially in peak periods.

He said the upgrade will allow more vehicles to pass through the traffic lights each time they turn green, reducing queuing on the M4 Motorway.”

Mr Constance said a new right turn only lane for motorists heading towards Woodville and Parramatta Rds has also been installed, further increasing the capacity of the off ramp.

Pacific Hwy: Harwood Bridge Opened

Adapted from joint media release, Chris Gulaptis MP, State Member for Clarence and Kevin Hogan, MP, Federal Member for Page, 6 December, 2019

The new bridge at Harwood over the Clarence River has opened to traffic.

Member for Clarence, Chris Gulaptis, said this bridge will be a game changer for the region as highway traffic will no longer need to be stopped with the existing bridge lifts for vessels on the river.

He said the new bridge is part of a four kilometre dual carriageway section of road between Farlow's Flat and Serpentine Channel.

Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, said work to build the new bridge included the construction of 117 piles and 35 piers as well as 144 concrete girders cast and lifted.

Pacific Hwy: New Dual Carriageway Section Opened at Pimlico

Adapted from media release, Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Minister for Transport and Roads, 19 December, 2019

The Woolgoolga to Ballina Pacific Highway upgrade has reached another milestone with a second section of new four lane divided road opening to traffic last week.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the new five kilometre section of road would deliver improved safety and reduced travel times between Glenugie and Ballina.

Overtaking Lanes Opened on the Newell Hwy

Adapted from media release, Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, 9 December, 2019

The first three of 30 additional overtaking lanes on the Newell Hwy have opened to traffic.

The new overtaking lanes are a pair at Dusty's Creek, north of Gilgandra, and one lane at Medway, north of Dubbo.

The pair of overtaking lanes under construction at Marthaguy are set to open to traffic in January, 2020.

Proposed Closure, Whittingham Rest Area

Transport for NSW has advised that the Whittingham rest area, also known as Singleton East rest area, is being closed on Monday, 3 February, 2020 as part of early work for the New England Highway upgrade between Belford and the Golden Highway intersection.

Closure, Castlereagh Rd, Penrith 25 December to 31 December

Transport for NSW has advised that there will be a full closure of Castlereagh Rd between Jane St and Thornton Dr, Penrith from 10pm Wednesday 25 December to 5am Tuesday 31 December 2019.

Traffic will be diverted to The Northern Rd via Andrews Rd on the northern side and Jane St on the southern side of the railway line.

Road users are expected to experience up to 30 minutes delay on the detour route. There will be extensive travel time delays in Penrith CBD on 26 and 27 December.

Closure, Galston Rd, 13-15 January

Transport for NSW has advised that Galston Rd will be temporarily closed between Calderwood Rd and Montview Pde between 10pm, 13 January and 10pm, 15 January, weather permitting.

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
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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.

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)	20 Dec 2019	Million	25,543	1.5
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)	Oct 2019	Number	13,169	-18.2
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)	11 months to Nov 2019	Number	978,628	-8.2
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	20 Dec 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	132.9	5.6

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