



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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NHVR Announces Changes to the National Heavy Vehicle Law from 28 February

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced minor amendments to the *National Heavy Vehicle Law* effective 28 February.

Changes to Defect Notices

The NHVR says the changes remove inconsistencies between self-clearing defect notices, minor and major defect notices.

It says these changes will:

- align the requirement for a driver who is not the vehicle operator to give the defect notice to the operator as soon as practicable, but no more than 14 days, after the notice is issued
- allow a self-clearing defect notice to specify the date by which the repairs must be carried out
- provide an option for the operator to request permission to use a heavy vehicle subject to a self-clearing defect notice if the repairs have not been carried out by the required date.

Further information on these changes is available from <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/on-road-compliance-and-enforcement>

Changes to the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual

The NHVR says changes to the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual include updated requirements for number plate markings for hydrogen and electric powered vehicles and length exemptions for blind spot mirrors.

Further information is available from <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201806-0290-vsg2-changes-to-heavy-vehicle-safety-standards.pdf>.

Changes to the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual

The NHVR said there have also been amendments to the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation to:

- Include a definition of a specified semitrailer which allows a maximum height of 4.6 metres for a specified semitrailer
- Provide general road access to a combination that includes a specified semitrailer.

Further information is available from <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201908-1086-information-sheet-specified-semitrailer.pdf>.

NHVR Schedule of Penalties and Infringements 2019-20

The NHVR says infringements of \$1121 for Severe risk breaches of standard and BFM hour fatigue requirements have been added to the *NHVR Schedule of Penalties and Infringements 2019-20*.

It says this is an alternative, as previously Severe breaches were only able to be prosecuted in court.

A full list of infringements is available from <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/penalties-and-infringements>.

Protecting Workers from Foreseeable Psychological Hazards a Legal Duty Says SafeWork NSW

Adapted from Article, OHS Alert, 19 February, 2020

Jim Kelly, Director of Health and Return to Work at SafeWork, has told a forum on mental health in the legal profession that employers have a legal duty to identify and manage reasonably foreseeable workplace psychological hazards, and protect workers from unsafely high work demands and bullying.

He said there is a good business case for providing a mentally healthy workplace as it helps to prevent injury and illness and increase productivity, but says that controlling psychological health and safety risk is a legislative requirement.

Mr Kelly said WHS laws require persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) to manage risks posed by reasonably foreseeable hazards, and adopting a risk-management approach to psychosocial hazards is a critical step towards creating a mentally healthy workplace.

He said all businesses must consider the work, the nature of the workplace, the types of activities workers are required to undertake and the cumulative effect of work demands or risk factors over time.

This includes risk factors such as high work demands, low job control, job instability, exposure to trauma, violence and aggression, and poor change management.

Mr Kelly stresses consultation with workers as a fundamental and effective element of WHS legislation and the workplace environment and urges employers must engage with workers through conversations, staff surveys, hazard and incident reporting and issues-resolution to identify psychological risk factors in their workplace.

This is because hazards can lead to work-related stress that if left unattended will lead to psychological injury.

Awareness of hazards and how they occur can help contribute to taking action to manage them and create positive workplace culture."

He said poor workplace relationships is another prevalent hazard that has significant effects on mental health.

Workplace behaviours like bullying and harassment are often symptoms of underlying problems within the workplace contributed to by psychological risk factors

Mr Kelly said SafeWork expects employers to have systems of work that enable workers to raise concerns and seek assistance to resolve their issues, as well as to monitor complaints and proactively examine the contributing psychological risk factors.

He said that when SafeWork investigates these types of allegations it looks into whether workers and managers are being placed under high demands, whether performance management practices are applied inconsistently and if other factors like effort-reward imbalance, poor organisational change or job insecurity are evident.

He stressed the importance of owners and senior managers showing strong visible leadership to bring about cultural change in the workplace.

Coronavirus: Driver Risk Exposure

Advice, Queensland Trucking Association

Online grocery delivery is undertaken in many parts of the country.

Reports are being received within industry that drivers have delivered to addresses where the person has self-quarantined in their home and then ordered online groceries.

Drivers are attending without being aware there is a self-quarantine in place, only to find the person making the declaration as they are about to enter.

Quite appropriately drivers moved away and called their supervisor for assistance.

When retailers have been contacted about this risk – the consistent response has been it is a transport issue and they would not be doing anything.

Operators have strongly suggested that retailers contact their customers again requesting their online ordering system be updated to allow people to declare the “self-quarantine” so that the delivery can be done with the drivers applying some basic protective measures.

A reasonable response by members for protective measures for drivers (which has been communicated) is:

1. Delivery to be conducted as though the person is not home – i.e. The delivery is placed outside the door
2. The driver is able to put on their face mask (face masks have been issued to all drivers as part of their first aid kit – and have spares on hand)
3. Driver to also clean hands (either wash or using hand sanitiser) after attending the site.

The response from retailers has been to push back to the transporter when they are the ones who provide the ordering platform and service to clients and made no attempt to consider how that platform could be used to better provide a safe delivery for all. It is not unreasonable to expect better.

Labour Hire Licensing Legislation Introduced into ACT Parliament

The ACT Government has introduced labour hire legislation into the ACT Parliament.

ACT Employment Minister, Suzanne Orr, said the purpose of the ACT's *Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2020* is to encourage responsible employment practices in the ACT labour hire sector.

She said the Bill has been drafted to ensure that labour hire businesses operating in the ACT meet their workplace obligations and responsibilities to their workers, and create a framework that is effective in preventing and responding to non-compliance with workplace standards in the labour hire industry by, amongst other things, requiring labour hire companies to be licensed.

She indicated legislation will take effect from next year and flagged a six month phase in period.

ARTIO NSW will provide Members with further details following enactment.

NSW Government Announces Safer Roads Program Initiatives for 2020-21

The NSW Government has announced details of Round three of its Safer Roads Program which it says will see \$258 million invested into 383 projects in 2020-21.

Funding will go to 285 regional projects through the NSW Governments Saving Lives on Country Roads program and to 98 projects through its Liveable and Safe Urban Communities program.

It says Round three of the project will deliver:

- over 230 kms of safety barriers to reduce road crashes and protect vehicle occupants.
- 2150 kms of rumble strips to alert drivers when they are departing from their lane
- nearly 1000 kms of wide centreline providing greater distance for drivers to recover from lane departure
- close to 1500 high-risk rural curve improvements including shoulder sealing, barriers, rumble strips, signage and line-marking upgrades
- over 100 urban intersection improvements including roundabouts and traffic signal upgrades.

Private Sector Wages Growth Stagnates

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the rate of wages growth in the private sector in Australia has stagnated.

Wages grew by 2.2 per cent in the private sector in the year ending 31 December and by 0.5 per cent in the three months to 31 December.

In the transport, postal and warehousing sector, wages grew by 2.3 per cent in the year ending 31 December and by only 0.3 per cent in the three months to 31 December.

The dip in the rate of wages growth in the transport, postal and warehousing sector in the December quarter, meant the annual rate of wages growth fell from 2.6 per cent in the year ending 30 September

Wages rates have grown by 0.5 per cent in the private sector in each of the last four quarters.

TCA Announces New On-Board Mass Option

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 17 February, 2020

Transport Certification Australia has announced Airtec Corporation's new option for transport operators wanting to benefit from its existing type-approved On-Board Mass system.

According to TCA, Airtec is a leading supplier and manufacturer of digital tyre inflation and truck scales and mass management systems around the world.

It said Airtec's 89AXM Series OBM system, which obtained type-approval in April 2019, can now be used with an alternate Mass Sensor Unit, which is the part of the OBM system used to measure axle mass loads, thus offering choice to transport operators.

David Hewett, Managing Director of Airtec Corporation, said that the 89AXL400 Series is a smart truck scale that is cheaper and easy to use, while still offering the benefits of type-approval.

"By using wireless technology between trailers and prime movers, we've been able to introduce greater flexibility for transport operators, and reduce set-up costs," Mr Hewett said.

ARTIO NSW Industry Leaders Dinner, Parramatta, 11 March

ARTIO NSW is pleased to invite you and your colleagues to the next ARTIO NSW Industry Leaders Dinner to be held on 11 March at the El Phoenician Restaurant, 328 Church St, Parramatta, 6.15pm for 7pm.

Guest Speaker, The Hon Nicholas "Nick" Sherry, BA, FAIST, will discuss the implications of the Hayne Royal Commission on the business lending environment and other aspects of the relationship between the banking and finance sectors and the business community.

Nick, who is the Chairman of FNZ APAC and of Sherry and Associates International, a specialist advisory consultant in pension systems, has expertise in all aspects of pension system design and operation - contributions, governance and regulation, taxation, investment and related legacy issues.

Nick was previously a senior pension fund executive from 1986 to 1990 and he established two funds. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1990-2012, over this time his portfolio included Australia's first Minister for Superannuation (Pensions) and Corporate Law 2007-2009, Assistant Treasurer 2009-10 and Small Business Minister 2010-11. He chaired the Senate Superannuation Committee from 1990-93, where he oversaw the two key foundations of the Australian system – 9 per cent compulsory contributions and Superannuation Industry Supervision.

Since retiring from public life, Nick has held a range of corporate, commercial and honorary positions in Australia, Europe and the US, including with professional bodies and charities, listed companies, universities and leading global institutions.

To register or for further information, please contact Hugh McMaster, hughmc@artionsw.com.au, tel: 0412 880861

Road Works Update

M7 Motorway Southbound and Northbound Off ramps to the M4 Motorway, 23-28 February

The following ramp closures are planned for the M4 Motorway northbound and southbound off ramp from the M7 Motorway:

Sunday 23 February to Thursday, 27 February

9pm to 4am

Five night ramp closure.

M4 Motorway Road Closure, Mamre Rd to The Northern Rd, 24-27 February

The M4 Motorway will be closed in both directions from **Mamre Rd to The Northern Rd** as follows:

Monday 24 February to Thursday 27 February

11pm to 4am

M4 Motorway Ramp Closure, Prospect Hwy Eastbound On Ramp, 23-25 February

The following ramp closure is planned for the Burnett St eastbound off ramp from the M4 Motorway:

Sunday 23 February to Monday 24 February

9pm to 4am

Two night ramp closure.

Pennant Hills Rd to M1 Motorway Northbound On Ramp Closure, 24-28 February

The following ramp closures are planned for the M1 Motorway northbound on ramp from Pennant Hills Rd

Monday 24 February to Thursday 27 February

11pm to 4am

Four night ramp closure.

M2 Motorway Eastbound On Ramp to Delhi Rd, Delhi Rd between Julius Ave and Epping Rd, Delhi Rd Westbound On Ramp to M2 Motorway, 21-24 February

The following ramp closures are planned for Delhi Rd eastbound on ramp from the M2 Motorway: from 7pm, Saturday 22 February to 1pm, Sunday 23 February.

Delhi Rd between Julius Ave and Epping Rd will be closed in both directions from 8pm, Saturday 22 February to 1pm, Sunday 23 February.

Delhi Rd Westbound On Ramp to M2 Motorway will be closed from 8pm, Friday 21 February to 5am, Monday 24 February.

Lane Cove Tunnel 2-13 March

Lane Cove Tunnel will be closed in both directions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, 2-6 March and 9-13 March, from 10pm to 5am.

Eastern Distributor, Sydney to Zetland, 23-28 February

The Eastern Distributor will be closed between 23 and 28 February as follows:

Northbound: 23-25 February and 27 February, 10.30pm to 5am.
26 February, 10pm to 5am.

Southbound: 24-25 February, 11pm to 5am.

M4 East Tunnel Off Ramp Westbound to Concord Rd, 24-28 February

The following ramp closures are planned for the Concord Rd westbound on ramp from the M4 East Tunnel:

Monday 24 February to Thursday 27 February
10pm to 5am
Four night ramp closure

New Canterbury Rd, Dulwich Hill to Petersham to 9 March

Scheduled lane closures will take place on New Canterbury Rd in both directions between Morton St and Ducros Ave, Sunday to Thursday nights, 10pm to 5am to 9 March.

Hume Hwy Ramp Closures - Albury from 2 March

Maintenance work will be carried out on the Thurgoona Dr on and off ramps on the Hume Hwy in March.

Southbound on and off ramps will be closed for six days, from 6am, Monday, 2 March to 6pm, Saturday, 7 March.

The northbound on ramp will be closed for five days from 6am, Tuesday, 10 March to 6pm, Saturday, 14 March.

While the northbound off ramp will remain open during the project, work will be carried out from 6am to 11pm weekdays from Tuesday, 10 March to Friday, 14 March and from 6am to 6pm on Saturday, 14 March, with no major impacts to road users.

Detours will be in place during the ramp closure and may affect travel times.

All heavy vehicles will be detoured through approved routes, including Riverina Hwy and Wagga Rd.

Traffic Changes, M1 Motorway, Tuggerah to Alison, from 4 March

From 4am, 3 March, new traffic arrangements will be in place for northbound traffic from the Tuggerah Rd Interchange, Tuggerah through to Alison Rd, Alison on the M1 Motorway.

A third lane will be opened to traffic and the speed limit will be increased to 110km/h for light vehicles.

There will be a lane merge (three lanes to two) approaching Alison Rd and the speed limit will drop back to 80km/h.

Picton Rd between the M1 Motorway to Wilton Rd, M1 Motorway between Memorial Dr Gwynneville and Picton Rd 1-2 March

Picton Rd between the M1 Motorway and Wilton Rd, and the M1 Motorway between Memorial Dr Gwynneville and Picton Rd, will be closed in both directions from 8pm to 4am.

Appin Rd between the M1 Motorway and the Wilton Rd, 10-12 March

Appin Rd will be closed between the M1 Motorway and Baden Powell Dr in both directions as follows:

Tuesday 10 March to Thursday 10 March
9am to 3pm

Illawarra Hwy between Tongarra Rd and Mt Murray Rd 24-26 March

The Illawarra Hwy between Tongarra Rd and Mt Murray Rd will be closed in both directions from 24 to 26 March between 9am and 3pm.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Camperdown	Cnr Parramatta and Missenden Rds	15/3-3/5/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Chippendale	Abercrombie St from Dick St to Broadway Cnr Abercrombie St and O'Connor St	1/3-29/5/20	15	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Edgecliff	Cnr New South Head Rd and Ocean St	17/2-9/4/20	10	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kingsford	Anzac Pde southbound between Sturt St and Botany RD	24/2-17/4/20	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kingsgrove	Cnr Bexley Rd and Parker Ave	23/2-10/4/20	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kogarah	Princes Hwy north of Rocky Pt Rd intersection	24-28/2/20	2	8pm-5am
Matraville	Bunnerong Rd between Australia St and Harold St, and between Perry St/Franklin Ave and Daunt St	23/2-10/4/20	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
St Peters	Princes Hwy between May St and Sydney Park Rd	23/2-17/4/20	8	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Stanmore	Cnr Parramatta Rd and Bridge Rd	24/2-31/5	5	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Surry Hills	Cnr South Dowling and Cleveland Sts	23/2-3/4/20	8	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)	Dec Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.8
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.75	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	21 Feb 2020	Million	25,608	1.4
Retail turnover (ABS)	Dec 2019	\$m	27,863	2.8
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)	Dec 2019	Number	14,423	-5.9
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Sep 2019	\$m	83,210	-3.6
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	6 months to Dec 2019	Number	1,310,433	-4.9
Employed persons (ABS)	Jan 2020	Million	12.997	2.0
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Jan 2020	Per cent	5.2	0.1
Wage price Index (ABS)	Dec Qtr 2019	Per cent		
All employees				2.2
Transport, postal and warehousing				2.3
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2020	Number	71,371	-12.5
Heavy commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2020	Number	14,035	-17.6
Light commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2020	Number	1,809	-11.2
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	21 Feb 2020	Cents/litre incl. GST	128.4	-4.5

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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