



Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

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# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

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## Service NSW Sets Up One Stop Shop to Help Bushfire Victims

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Service NSW has advised that it has pulled together essential government services into one location to help individuals and businesses impacted by the bushfires.

It says customer care specialists are available to guide those affected every step of the way.

Those affected can register with a customer care specialist for ongoing personalised support.

To Register visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service> or call 13 77 88.

Service NSW staff can also provide assistance over the phone, or in-person, at any Service NSW Centre, Mobile Service Centres or Bushfire Recovery Centres with:

- Bushfire clean up registration;
- Mental health and wellbeing;
- Small business advice;
- Accommodation;
- Financial assistance;
- Insurance and legal advice; and
- Services provided by the Australian Government.

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## Transport for NSW Trial Aims to Enforce Parking Infringements in Rest Areas

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*Adapted from media release, Transport for NSW, 20 January, 2020*

Transport for NSW will be trialling changes to parking in two Pacific Highway rest areas at Yelgun and Arrawarra to ensure spaces are available for all drivers to rest and manage their fatigue.

It says changes will include the enforcement of fines for light vehicles parked in heavy vehicle spaces and four hour timed restrictions for light vehicle drivers.

Brett Butcher, Transport for NSW's Acting Director Northern, said heavy vehicle drivers are required by law to take mandatory rest breaks, and are limited to where they can travel.

He said it is important that heavy vehicle drivers are able to access dedicated parking spaces to manage their fatigue.

Mr Butcher said light vehicles and heavy vehicles less than 12 tonnes GVM will not be permitted to park in heavy vehicle spaces in these two locations and penalties will apply.

"We want everyone to remember that rest areas are a shared facility – this trial aims to accommodate the needs of all road users and help everyone on the road manage their fatigue," Mr Butcher said.

The trial will run for six months. Monitoring will be carried out and considered as part of any future roll out.

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## **Federal Government Seeking Revocation of Compulsory Call Out of Defence Force Reservists**

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***Adapted from joint media release, Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister and Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC, MP, Minister for Defence, 23 January, 2020***

The Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and the Minister for Defence, Linda Reynolds, have announced that the Federal Government will request the Governor-General revoke the current compulsory Call Out of the Australian Defence Force Reservists with effect from 7 February.

They said that, as the immediate, wide-scale emergency threat has eased, ADF support is moving from assisting to save life and property, to relief and recovery operations.

Mr Morrison said the ADF would continue to provide support where it's needed most, for as long as it's needed, with its full-time forces and volunteer Reserve personnel.

He said it is now time to allow ADF Reserve personnel who were part of the compulsory Call Out to return to their jobs, families, communities and personal commitments if they wish.

Mr Morrison said before any draw-down of the compulsory Call-Out commences, there is a need to ensure there is no immediate threat to life, and that basic, essential services have been restored.

Senator Reynolds said Reservists would continue to serve under Operation Bushfire Assist on a voluntary Call For basis.

She said detailed planning to recalibrate ADF support to the bushfire recovery is ongoing, in consultation with local and state emergency services and local communities.

Defence and other Commonwealth agencies will continue to work closely with the National Bushfire Recovery Agency.

Information on the Call Out is contained in ARTIO NSW Information Circular 4/2020 issued on 7 January.

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## **Sharp Rise in Mobile Phone Fines in Queensland from 1 February**

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The Queensland Government has announced that from 1 February, penalties for illegally using a mobile phone while driving are increasing from a \$400 fine and 3 demerit points to a \$1,000 fine and 4 demerit points.

It says this is designed to help deter drivers from this dangerous behaviour.

It cites research which shows using a mobile phone while driving can be as risky as drink driving.

The Queensland Government says a driver's response time while texting on a phone is comparable to that of a driver with a blood alcohol reading of between 0.07 and 0.10.

Double demerit points will still apply to all drivers for a second mobile phone offence within 12 months in Queensland.

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## **New Access Requirements for Specified Semitrailers Take Effect from 28 February**

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has released its 4.6m High Specified Semitrailer Information Sheet which contains access advice applicable to a specified semitrailer arising from an amendment to the Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation.

The MDL Regulation has been amended to:

- Include a definition of a specified semitrailer;
- Allow a maximum height of 4.6 metres for a specified semitrailer; and
- Provide road access to a combination that includes a specified semitrailer.

A specified semitrailer means a semitrailer that:

- Is not a PBS vehicle; and;
- Has an air suspension system with effective dampers fitted; and
- Has a deck height not higher than 1.2m for at least 50% of its deck length; and
- If in combination, the combination:
  - Consists only of;
    - A prime mover towing a single semitrailer attached to the prime mover by a fifth wheel coupling; or
    - A B-double; or
    - A B-triple; and
- Has a mass not more than 90% of the prescribed mass requirements for the combination.

A semitrailer which meets these criteria is able to operate at 4.6 metres high.

Road access for specified semitrailers will commence in 2020 on a date to be confirmed.

The MDL Regulations set out Prescribed Mass Requirements, which are determined by the vehicle's configuration at the time.

PMRs are enforceable and carry penalties under Chapter 4 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Further information, including mass exception limits, the mass condition calculation, and operating conditions under a Permit or Notice can be found at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201908-1086-information-sheet-specified-semitrailer.pdf>.

This amendment will commence 28 February 2020.

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## **Body Worn Cameras Issued to NHVR Safety and Compliance Officers**

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has advised that body worn cameras have been issued to all NHVR Safety and Compliance Officers following a recent trial in SA and Tasmania.

The BWC is a portable camera worn by NHVR officers to capture audio and video recordings of interactions between officers and those involved in heavy vehicle transport activities.

The NHVR says the BWC provides important safety benefits by encouraging safe and mutually respectful interactions.

NHVR Chief Operations Officer Paul Salvati said that the cameras would be worn during intercepts and evidence gathering activities by all NHVR officers in SA, Victoria, the ACT and Tasmania.

Mr Salvati said BWCs can ensure that evidence collected is accurate, comprehensive and impartial, as well as supporting the timely resolution of disputes when they arise.”

NHVR officers will notify drivers and operators at the start of the interaction that the camera is capturing audio and video recordings.

Footage from BWCs can be used as evidence in court, and for investigative purposes.

Footage collected is stored and retained in accordance with relevant evidence management requirements.

All access to BWC footage is monitored, tracked and auditable”.

Further information is available via email, [operational.support@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:operational.support@nhvr.gov.au) or the NHVR website, [www.nhvr.gov.au/BWC](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/BWC).

To request access to information held by the NHVR, including BWC footage, visit the NHVR’s Right to Information page, <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/right-to-information/requesting-information>

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## **NSW Health Provides Information on *Get Healthy at Work* Campaign**

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NSW Health says *Get Healthy at Work* campaign can help address individual, behavioural and workplace factors the impact health and wellbeing.

It says it can help to reduce tobacco and alcohol use, increase physical activity, active travel and healthy eating, and improve mental wellbeing of workers.

Information available includes fact sheets and slide shows.

NSW Health says recognisable short-term benefits include working better together, better job engagement and greater work satisfaction.

In the longer-term, it says a successful workplace health program may improve a workplace’s performance through improved staff retention, enhanced efficiency and strengthened corporate image.

Further information, including how to register for *Get Healthy at Work*, is available from [https://www.gethealthyatwork.com.au/workplaces?utm\\_source=eDM&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Campaign\\_Wellbeing](https://www.gethealthyatwork.com.au/workplaces?utm_source=eDM&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Campaign_Wellbeing)

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## **NHVR Announces Improved Management Arrangements for NHVAS and Vehicle Standards**

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced improvements to the management of NHVAS services and Vehicle Standards applications through the NHVR Portal.

NHVR Business Improvement Program Director David Carlisle said operators can now manage tasks including submitting an application, managing account information, reviewing an application’s status, reviewing accreditation status, reviewing driver and vehicle lists, paying for applications and viewing payment history.

He said the NHVR Portal is also a great way to track an application and retain information for auditing.

For more information on the latest release visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KczK9OhrNgQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KczK9OhrNgQ).

To manage an Accreditation or Vehicle Standards account visit [www.service.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.service.nhvr.gov.au).

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## NHVR Truck Information Day, Beresfield

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has announced that one of its regular Truck Driver Info Days will be held at the BP Beresfield on Wednesday, 5 February from 2pm till late.

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### New Clearway

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#### **Stoney Creek Rd and Forest Rd, Beverly Hills to Arncliffe, from 17 February**

Transport for NSW has advised that clearways will operate on Stoney Creek Rd from King Georges Rd at Beverly Hills to Kingsgrove Rd at Kingsgrove, in both directions, from 6am to 7pm on weekdays, and from 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

New timed 'No Stopping' restrictions will also operate on this section of Stoney Creek Rd from 10am to 3pm on weekdays and 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays.

On Stoney Creek Rd and Forest Rd, between Kingsgrove Rd and the M5 East Motorway at Arncliffe, clearways will operate from 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm weekdays in both directions.

Some new timed 'No Stopping' restrictions will also be installed at key intersections on Stoney Creek Rd and Forest Rd to improve traffic flow and allow vehicles to use the kerbside lane to safely pass vehicles waiting to turn right.

The clearways are scheduled to start from 6am on Monday 17 February.

Transport for NSW is working with Georges River Council to implement parking changes on Donald St, Hurstville by converting five unrestricted parking spaces into 1P spaces to support short term business customer parking.

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### Road Works Update

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#### **M4 Motorway: Ramp Closures at the Cumberland Hwy, 29 January to 6 February**

The following ramp closures will take place on the M4 Motorway at the Cumberland Hwy intersection:

##### ***Westbound on Ramp***

- Wednesday, 29 January to Friday, 31 January, 9pm to 5am. Two night ramp closure.

##### ***Westbound off Ramp***

- Sunday, 2 February to Monday, 3 February, 9pm to 5am. One night ramp closure.
- Wednesday, 5 February to Thursday, 6 February, 9pm to 5am. One night ramp closure.

##### ***Eastbound on Ramp***

- Wednesday, 5 February to Thursday, 6 February, 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.

##### ***Eastbound off Ramp***

- Thursday, 30 January to Friday 31, January, 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.
- Sunday, 2 February to Monday, 3 February, 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.
- Tuesday, 4 February to Wednesday, 5 February, 9pm to 4am. One night ramp closure.

#### **M1 Pacific Motorway from Sunday 16 February to Thursday 20 February**

Transport for NSW has advised that M1 Pacific Motorway between the Hunter Expressway and the John Renshaw Dr intersection will be closed as follows:

##### ***Northbound, Sunday 16 to Tuesday 18 February***

The northbound carriageway of the M1 will be closed over three nights between 7.30pm and 4.30am.

A detour will be in place for all northbound motorists via the Hunter Expressway and John Renshaw Dr.

The M1 northbound off-ramp to Newcastle Link Rd will also be closed. Newcastle bound traffic will be detoured via the Cardiff exit, George Booth Dr and Cameron Park Dr.

Other traffic should exit left at George Booth Dr and turn right at the Buchanan Interchange onto the Hunter Expressway.

### **Southbound, Wednesday 19 to Thursday 20 February**

The southbound carriageway of the M1 will be closed over two nights between 7.30pm and 4.30am.

A detour will be in place for all southbound motorists via John Renshaw Dr and the Hunter Expressway.

### **Church St Parramatta**

Transport for NSW has advised that as part of the Parramatta Light Rail construction project, parking will be removed along Church St between Market St and Macquarie St from 31 January to prepare for the permanent road closure to traffic.

Permanent closure of Church St to traffic between Market St and Macquarie St will take effect from 1 February.

Project updates, maps and weekly work schedules are available on the Parramatta Light Rail website, <http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/>.

To sign up to Parramatta Light Rail updates, contact <http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/subscribe>, or call the 24-hour project hotline on 1800 139 389.

### **Temporary Traffic Changes, Delhi Rd, North Ryde, 22-23 February**

Transport for NSW has advised that there will be temporary traffic changes on Delhi Rd, North Ryde as part of the Lachlan's Line Bridge Project.

Delhi Rd between the M2 Motorway and Epping Rd will be closed from 7pm, Saturday, 22 February, until 1pm, Sunday, 23 February.

There will be no access for all heavy vehicles undertaking the right turn from the M2 Motorway (northbound) onto Delhi Rd in order to access Epping Rd.

Operators of heavy vehicles up to 25/26m B-doubles will need to exit the M2 Motorway at Lane Cove Rd and then turn left onto Epping Rd.

### **Main Rd 92: Charleyong Bridge Closed Till Further Notice**

Transport for NSW has advised that Charleyong Bridge over the Mongarlowe River will be closed until further notice for urgent inspections and to identify and complete necessary repairs.

Due to the closure of Charleyong Bridge, Nerriga Rd will be closed between Braidwood and Oallen Rd until further notice.

Motorists are advised to use alternate routes, allow additional travel time, drive to conditions and follow the direction of signs and traffic control.

Heavy vehicles should use the Kings Hwy or other approved routes depending on their load limit restriction and their origin and destination.

### **Other Road Works**

<b>Suburb/ Town</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>No of Shifts</b>	<b>Work Times</b>
Lewisham	Old Canterbury Rd from Railway Tce to McGill St Railway Tce from Old Canterbury Rd to Victoria St	28/1-27/3/20	14	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Milperra	Henry Lawson Dr from intersection, Newbridge Rd to Georges River golf course Newbridge Rd east of Georges River bridge	2/2-1/5/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Padstow	Fairford Rd between Stuart St and Bryant St	28/1-6/3/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Randwick	Avoca St between Greenstead La and Victoria St	28/1-20/3/20	7	7am-6pm Sun-Fri

## Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source <sup>1</sup>	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)	24 Jan 2020	Million	25,579	1.4
Retail turnover (ABS)	Nov 2019	\$m	27,804	2.9
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)	6 months to Dec 2019	Number	1,310,433	-4.9
Employed persons (ABS)	Dec 2019	Million	12.976	2.1
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Dec 2019	Per cent	5.1	0.1
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	24 Jan 2020	Cents/litre incl. GST	135.4	5.0

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<sup>1</sup> 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.