



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

Newsletter Vol. 5 No 25, 29 November, 2019

Contents

1. Transport Ministers Propose 2.5 Per Cent Annual Increases in Heavy Vehicle Charges in 2020-21 and 2021-22
2. Pending Light Rail Commencement Leads to Extension of CBD Tow Away Area from 1 December
3. Christmas Parties and Gifts: Fringe Benefits Implications for Employers
4. PM Announces Accelerated Road Funding in NSW
5. PM Announces Accelerated Road Funding in the ACT
6. Industrial Manslaughter Laws Now in Place in Victoria
7. RMS Dissolved; Absorbed into Transport for NSW
8. NHVAS Accreditation Service to be Available Via the NHVR Portal from 2 December
9. Toowoomba Bypass Update
10. TCA Announces Approval of New In-Vehicle Unit Developed by Black Box Control
11. ARTIO NSW Office Arrangements
12. New Clearway, Pennant Hills to Dural
13. Road Works Update
14. Economic and Industry Indicators

Transport Ministers Propose 2.5 Per Cent Annual Increases in Heavy Vehicle Charges in 2020-21 and 2021-22

Heavy vehicle charges were discussed at the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting on 22 November.

According to a communique issued following the meeting, the Council considered advice from the National Transport Commission and acknowledged that as a result of recent growth in government investment in roads, there was a growing gap between road expenditure and revenue from charges.

The communique said that national heavy vehicle charges, which aim to recover the heavy vehicle share of road expenditure, have essentially been frozen since 2014 and that the NTC has advised charges need to rise by 11.4 per cent to recover the heavy vehicle share of recent road construction and maintenance costs.

However, following industry consultation earlier in the day, Council identified a preference for charges to rise by 2.5 per cent in both 2020-21 and 2.5 per cent in 2021-22, subject to consideration by governments where necessary.

The communique also said that Council has directed the NTC to undertake a determination to review the method for calculating heavy vehicle charges to ensure future decisions on charges recover the correct amount from each heavy vehicle type. It said industry and stakeholder consultation will be central to the determination process.

The Transport and Infrastructure Council comprises Commonwealth, State, Territory and NZ ministers for transport and roads, and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.

Pending Light Rail Commencement Leads to Extension of CBD Tow Away Area from 1 December

Transport for NSW has announced the extension of the tow away area in the Sydney CBD and surrounding areas in the lead up to the scheduled commencement of light rail services on 12 December.

Special tow away areas allow any unattended vehicles illegally parked to be removed.

Effective 1 December, the Sydney CBD tow away area will cover an area bounded by:

- Southern boundary: Cleveland St between Elizabeth St and Lee St.
- Eastern boundary: Elizabeth St, Wentworth Ave, College St, St James Rd and Macquarie St.
- Northern boundary: Alfred St/Cahill Expressway then due west to the Darling Harbour foreshore, Barangaroo.
- Western boundary: Darling Harbour foreshore, Barangaroo, Lime St, King St, Wheat Rd, Western Distributor to Harris St, then Harris St south of the Western Distributor overpass, Lee St to Cleveland St.

Other routes also included this tow away area are:

- Harris St between the Western Distributor and Pyrmont Bridge Rd.
- Broadway between Railway Sq and Mountain St.
- Devonshire St between Elizabeth St and Bourke St.
- St Mary's Rd between St James Rd and Yurong Parkway.

A separate tow away area will also apply on High St, Randwick between Belmore Rd and Wansey Rd from 1 December.

Christmas Parties and Gifts: Fringe Benefits Implications for Employers

The Australian Taxation Office provides guidance for businesses in relation to the Fringe Benefits Tax implications of both Christmas parties and gifts. Further information, including examples, is available from [https://www.ato.gov.au/general/fringe-benefits-tax-\(fbt\)/in-detail/fbt-and-christmas-parties/?=redirected_FBTChristmas](https://www.ato.gov.au/general/fringe-benefits-tax-(fbt)/in-detail/fbt-and-christmas-parties/?=redirected_FBTChristmas).

PM Announces Accelerated Road Funding in NSW

Adapted from media release, Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister, Hon Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Hon Gladys Berejiklian, Premier, Hon Alan Tudge, Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Transport and Roads, and Hon Paul Toole, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, 21 November, 2019

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has said the NSW economy will be boosted by a \$570m infrastructure package which includes the acceleration of \$530m in federal funding across three major regional projects that would increase safety, improve freight productivity and boost tourism.

He said \$212 million of the new package would be spent in the next 18 months.

Project funding brought forward includes:

- \$185m for the \$300m Toowoomba to Seymour (NSW section) Roads of Strategic Importance package to flow immediately and over the next three years to enable the commencement of works previously allocated beyond 2020-21. This includes funding Stage 2 of the Mungie Back Creek to Boggabilla project (\$81.1m) and the Tooraweenah Rd Upgrade project (\$23m).
- \$200m for the \$400m Newell Hwy Upgrades package to flow from 2020 to enable the commencement of works, including the Parkes Bypass, after previously being allocated beyond 2024-25.

- Further investment decisions will be informed by the Australian Government's Newell Hwy Corridor Strategy to target improved safety for all road users and help realise transport efficiency gains offered through the delivery of Inland Rail.
- \$145m for the \$500m Princes Hwy Corridor (NSW) package:
 - Funding will flow immediately and over the next three years to facilitate project development and expedite construction commencement, including the Milton-Ulladulla Bypass.
- \$20m for the Pacific Hwy Woolgoolga to Ballina project to enable its completion in late 2020.
- \$4m for construction of a bridge over the Macquarie River at Dixons Long Point, west of Hill End, and the upgrade of Long Point Rd and Ullamalla Rd on either side of the bridge.
- \$8.8 million for the Brig O'Johnston Bridge project, Clarence Town from 2020-21 to enable the project to commence following completion of planning and design.
- \$7.9 million for the Davey Rd Interchange project, Albury.

PM Announces Accelerated Road Funding in the ACT

Adapted from media release, Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister, Hon Michael McCormack, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Hon Yvette Berry, Acting Chief Minister and Hon Chris Berry, Minister for Roads and Active Travel, 25 November, 2019

Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has also announced that \$30m will be brought forward to the 2020-21 financial year to fast track the upgrade of the Monaro Hwy between Royalla Dr and Williamsdale Rd, and the Old Cooma Rd intersection.

He said this would help to expedite upgrades which increase safety, improve freight productivity and boost tourism.

Acting ACT Chief Minister Yvette Berry said the ACT Government has also agreed to bring forward \$15m of its contribution to ensure \$45m was allocated to construction in the 2020-21 financial year.

Industrial Manslaughter Laws Now in Place in Victoria

Adapted from article, "OHS Alert", 27 November, 2019

The Victorian parliament has passed the *Workplace Safety Legislation Amendment (Workplace Manslaughter and Other Matters) Bill 2019*, which now awaits royal assent.

It will commence on a day to be proclaimed or 1 July 2020, whichever is the latest, and will include maximum fines of 100,000 penalty units (currently equating to \$16,522,000) for bodies corporate, and jail terms of up to 20 years for company officers, who negligently cause the death of a worker or member of the public.

These new laws could capture practices that "fail to create a culture of compliance", actions that cause a mental illness that leads to death, and negligent conduct or fatalities that occur in other jurisdictions.

Industrial manslaughter laws currently apply in the Queensland and the ACT. Industrial manslaughter legislation is proceeding through the parliaments of WA and the NT.

RMS Dissolved; Absorbed into Transport for NSW

Legislation dissolving Roads and Maritime Services and absorbing its assets, liabilities and functions, has been passed by State Parliament.

The *Transport Administration Amendment (RMS Dissolution) Bill 2019* passed through parliament on 20 November and was assented on 22 November.

Minister for Transport and Roads, Mr Constance, said dissolution aimed to bring RMS into Transport for NSW to enable a better strategic approach to the integration of transport for everybody in NSW.

There are no consequences for road transport operators carrying on business in NSW arising from the dissolution of RMS.

NHVAS Accreditation Service to be Available Via the NHVR Portal from 2 December

The NHVR has advised that from 29 November, its Accreditation team will start transferring NHVAS applications received via email, fax or web forms to the NHVR Portal.

It says that from 2 December, the Accreditation Service will be available for operator use.

The NHVR says advantages of using the NHVR Portal include:

- Easier process for updating vehicles and driver details.
- Automated reminders for managing and maintaining Accreditation.
- Linked information across NHVR services, giving to view activities across a whole account.
- Real-time display of vehicle registration against an Accreditation Vehicle list, removing the need to submit additional paperwork when there is a change to registration status.
- One-click ordering for replacement labels and interception report books.

Operators will be able to manage their NHVAS tasks including:

- Submitting an application.
- Managing account information.
- Reviewing application status.
- Reviewing accreditation status.
- Reviewing driver and vehicle lists.
- Paying for applications.
- Viewing payment history.

For questions about the new services available in the NHVR Portal, please contact the NHVR Call Centre, telephone, 1300 MY NHVR (1300 696 487).

Toowoomba Bypass Update

A reminder that the Toowoomba Bypass will cease to operate as a toll free route on 8 December.

All heavy vehicles over 4.5t (excluding motorhomes and buses) traversing the Toowoomba range are required to use the Toowoomba Bypass unless the vehicle's journey has a "local destination", or a starting point in Toowoomba or Withcott; or is travelling to, or from, Toowoomba using the New England Hwy.

A 'local destination in Toowoomba' is defined as destinations on the border of the Blue Zone, (sections of Boundary St, Bridge St, Tor St, Anzac Ave, James St, Canning St and Drayton Connection Rd), will be required to use the Toowoomba Bypass.

For further information, please visit <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Projects/Name/T/Toowoomba-Second-Range-Crossing>, contact the Toowoomba office of the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, telephone (07) 4639 0777 or email downsswr.office@tmr.qld.gov.au.

TCA Announces Approval for New In-Vehicle Unit Developed by BlackBox Control

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 25 November, 2019

Transport Certification Australia has announced the type-approval of a BlackBox Control Telematics In-Vehicle Unit (IVU).

TCA says the new IVU is an original model designed and developed in Australia that positions BlackBox Control to offer new applications and features now available through the National Telematics Framework.

“Our new type-approved IVU has the capability to support new applications and features being offered through the Framework, including Intelligent Mass functionality, which is being rolled-out during 2020,” said Mark Langford, General Manager of BlackBox Control.

TCA said a list of type-approved IVUs is available on the TCA website at <https://www.tca.gov.au/truck/ivu/ivu-type-approved>.

ARTIO NSW Office Arrangements

The ARTIO NSW office will be unattended from 7 to 17 December inclusive. This means requests for information and advice may take a little longer than usual to be dealt with.

The next edition of *The Courier* will be issued on 20 December.

New Clearway, Pennant Hills to Dural

RMS has advised that new clearways will apply on Boundary Rd and New Line Rd between Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills and Old Northern Rd, Dural from 9 December 2019.

RMS says the clearways will apply between 6am to 7pm on weekdays and 9am to 6pm on weekends and public holidays in both directions.

The new clearways will connect to the existing clearways on Pennant Hills Rd

RMS also says new No Stopping restrictions will also be installed along sections of Boundary Rd and New Line Rd, mainly at intersections, to improve safety.

Road Works Update

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Cumberland Hwy, Westbound On Ramp, 2-16 December

Transport for NSW has advised the following ramp closures at the Cumberland Hwy westbound on ramp between 9pm and 5am:

- Monday, 2 December to Wednesday, 4 December. Two night ramp closure.
- Sunday, 8 December to Tuesday, 10 December. Two night ramp closure.
- Wednesday, 11 December to Friday 13, December. Two night ramp closure.
- Sunday, 15 December to Monday 16, December. One night ramp closure.

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Cumberland Hwy, Eastbound Off Ramp, 3-19 December

Transport for NSW has advised the following ramp closures at the Cumberland Hwy eastbound off ramp between 9pm and 4am:

- Tuesday, 3 December to Wednesday 4, December. One night ramp closure.
- Tuesday, 17 December to Thursday 19, December. Two night ramp closure.

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Cumberland Hwy, Eastbound On Ramp, 11-19 December

Transport for NSW has advised the following ramp closures at the Cumberland Hwy eastbound on ramp between 9pm and 4am:

- Wednesday, 11 December to Thursday, 12 December. One night ramp closure.
- Sunday, 15 December to Thursday 19, December. Four night ramp closure.

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Prospect Hwy, Westbound On Ramp, 2-6 December

Transport for NSW has advised the following ramp closures at the Prospect Hwy westbound on ramp:

- Monday, 2 December to Wednesday 4, December, between 9pm and 5am. Two night ramp closure.

- Thursday, 5 December to Friday 6, December, between 10pm to 5am. One night ramp closure.

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Prospect Hwy, Eastbound On Ramp, 8-13 December

Transport for NSW has advised the following ramp closures at the Prospect Hwy eastbound on ramp between 9pm and 4am:

- Sunday, 8 December to Tuesday 10, December, Two night ramp closure.
- Thursday, 12 December to Friday, 13 December. One night ramp closure.

Ramp Closures, M4 Motorway at Prospect Hwy, Eastbound On and Off Ramps, 4-5 December

Transport for NSW has advised that the Prospect Hwy eastbound on and off ramps will be closed for one night from Thursday, 5 December to Friday, 6 December, between 9pm to 4am.

Ramp Closure, M4 Motorway at Coleman St, Eastbound On Ramp, 8-9 December

Transport for NSW has advised that the Coleman St eastbound on ramp will be closed for one night from Sunday, 8 December to Monday, 9 December, between 9pm to 4am.

M4 Motorway: Ramp Closures James Ruse Dr to Cumberland Hwy

Transport for NSW has advised the following upcoming ramp closures until 4am Thursday, 5 December between James Ruse Dr and the Cumberland Hwy. With the following ramp closures on Wednesday, 4 December:

- Church St westbound on ramp from 10pm.
- Coleman St eastbound on ramp from 10pm.
- Cumberland Hwy eastbound on ramp from 10pm.
- Burnett St eastbound on ramp from 11pm.

There will also be gantry installations taking place until 4am Wednesday 11 December between the Cumberland Highway and Reservoir Road with the following ramp closures on 10 December:

- 10pm Church St westbound on ramp.
Reservoir Rd eastbound on ramp.
- 11pm Cumberland Hwy westbound on ramp.
Prospect Hwy westbound on ramp.
Prospect Hwy eastbound on ramp.

Ramp Closures, M2 Motorway, Delhi Rd, Westbound On Ramp, Delhi Rd Eastbound Off Ramp 30 November to 2 December; Closure, Delhi Rd

Transport for NSW has advised that both the Delhi Rd westbound on ramp and the Delhi Rd eastbound off ramp will be closed between midday, Saturday, 30 November and 5am, Monday, 2 December.

Delhi Rd between Epping Rd and Rennie St will also be closed during the times nominated above.

Ramp Closures, M2 Motorway, Pennant Hills Rd, Westbound On Ramp, 1-19 December

Transport for NSW has advised that the Pennant Hills westbound on ramp will be closed on the following nights from 1-19 December:

- Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 10pm to 5am.
- Thursdays: 10pm-5.30am.

Lane and Northbound Road Closures, M1 Motorway, Kariong Interchange, 2-5 December

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised that changed traffic conditions will be in place from Monday night, 2 December, on the M1 Pacific Motorway at the Kariong interchange.

A shoulder and fast lane closure will be in place during this work.

On Wednesday night, 4 December, traffic travelling northbound may experience intermittent stoppages for up to 10 minutes while the new gantry structure is lifted into place over the motorway, and when the signage is fixed.

Work to prepare for this lift will take place over three nights from 2 December and is expected to be complete by early morning, 5 December, weather permitting. Work will be carried out from 8.30pm to 5am with the stoppages occurring intermittently throughout Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

There will be restrictions on oversize, over mass loads during this time with a 4.5 metre maximum width open to traffic.

For the safety of motorists, two southbound lanes will be closed reducing traffic to one lane past the work area. Southbound traffic will not be stopped.

A 40km/h speed limit will be in place around this night work area.

Reduced Speed Limit, Missenden Rd from 4 December

Transport for NSW has advised that the speed limit will be reduced from 50km/h to 40km/h on the length of Missenden Rd (between Parramatta Rd, Camperdown and King St, Newtown), from 4 December.

Reduced 40km/h Speed Limit in Parramatta CBD from 29 November

Transport for NSW has advised that a 40km/h speed limit will be introduced in the Parramatta CBD area which includes Marsden, Church, Smith, Macquarie, Hunter, Argyle and George Sts.

Traffic Changes George St Parramatta from 29 November

Transport for NSW has advised that from 10pm Friday 29 November, George St will become two-way between O'Connell St and the intersection of Harris and Macarthur Sts.

Parking on George St will be reallocated to better service businesses and to help traffic flow smoothly in and around Parramatta.

The parking and one lane of traffic along the southern side of George St has been temporarily removed to help people adjust to the changes.

Reduced Speed Limit, Silverdale Rd from 28 November

Transport for NSW has advised that Thursday, 28 November, the 90 km/h zone on Silverdale Rd between Taylors Rd, Silverdale and News Rd, Werombi has been reduced to 80 km/h.

15 Tonne Load Limit - Korn's Crossing Bridge, Crystal Creek Effective 28 November

A reminder that Transport for NSW had advised that an immediate 15 tonne load limit has been placed on the Korn's Crossing Bridge on Numinbah Rd at Crystal Creek, about eight kms west of Murwillumbah.

Heavy vehicles heading towards Murwillumbah from Numinbah should turn right onto Zara Rd at Chillingham and left onto Tyalgum Rd at Tyalgum.

Heavy vehicles heading towards Numinbah from Murwillumbah should turn right from Kyogle Rd onto Tyalgum Rd, then right onto Limpinwood Rd at Tyalgum and left onto Numinbah Rd at Chillingham.

Transport for NSW advises that these detours will add up to 20 minutes travelling time.

Bridge repairs are scheduled to start in February 2020 and are expected to take about eight weeks to complete.

Cambewarra Mountain, Day Closures from 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.

Vehicles over 7.5 metres or 12 tonnes will need to detour via the Illawarra and Princes Hwys. Light vehicles can detour via Kangaroo Valley Rd and Tourist Rd.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Bellevue Hill	Old South Head Rd between O'Brien St and Francis St	1/12-20/12/19	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Blakehurst	Princes Hwy south of Townson St	4-5/12/19	2	9pm-5am both nights
Bondi	Bondi Rd between Glen St and Dudley St	1/12-20/12/19	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
French's Forest	Wakehurst Parkway between Warringah Rd and French's Forest Rd	29/11-1/12/19	2	8pm-7am both nights
Peakhurst	Salt Pan Creek Bridge, Henry Lawson Dr	25/11/19-31/7/20	N/A	7am-6pm Mon-Fri 6pm-9pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat

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)	29 Nov 2019	Million	25,537	1.5
Retail turnover (ABS)	Sep 2019	\$m	27,563	2.4
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2019	\$m	29,346	-0.6
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	859,016	-7.3
Employed persons (ABS)	Oct 2019	Million	12,936	2.1
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Oct 2019	Per cent	5.3	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)	10 months to Oct 2019	Number	893,920	-8.0
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	29 Nov 2019	Cents/litre incl. GST	136.0	4.4

DISCLAIMER: This document is an information source only. Despite our best efforts, ARTIO NSW makes no statements, representations or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of the information and disclaims responsibility for all liability for all loss or damage you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason. The information contained in this document is not intended to be nor should it be relied upon as a substitute for legal or other professional advice.

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.