



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](mailto:hughmc@artionsw.com.au)  
ABN: 93149961882

# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

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## **Contents**

1. Economic Outlook Remains Sound Says Reserve Bank
2. SafeWork NSW Adopts Codes of Practice for First Aid and Excavation Work
3. Relief on Rates, Development Applications, Provided to Bushfire Victims
4. TAFE NSW to Run Free Online Mentoring Program for Women Running Small Businesses
5. Annual CPI Increases to 1.8 Per Cent in the December 2019 Quarter
6. SafeWork NSW Safety Around Your Vehicle Workshops, Coffs Harbour and Tamworth
7. ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing, Rooty Hill, 25 February
8. Road Works Update
9. Economic and Industry Indicators

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## **Economic Outlook Remains Sound Says Reserve Bank**

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The Reserve Bank of Australia has maintained its view that Australia's gross domestic product will grow by 2.75 per cent in 2020, notwithstanding the adverse impact of weak domestic demand, the bushfires and the impact of the coronavirus on the tourism and higher education sectors.

The Bank also still expects Australia's economy will grow by 3 per cent in 2021.

It says the economy's growth will be underpinned by stimulus from tax cuts, interest rate cuts, more infrastructure spending and an improved outlook for the resources sector.

The bank expects inflation at around 2 per cent in the next two years and the unemployment rate staying at around 5.1 to 5.25 per cent.

It says business lending to small and medium sized spending remains tight.

The bank retains a view that interest rates will remain at low levels for a sustained period of time.

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## **SafeWork NSW Adopts Codes of Practice for First Aid and Excavation Work**

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SafeWork NSW has announced that it has adopted codes of practice related to first aid and excavation work.

According to SafeWork NSW, a code of practice provides detailed information on how to achieve the standards required under the work health and safety laws.

These do not replace the WHS laws, but codes of practice can be issued to help make understanding what you have to do a little easier.

Under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, codes of practice are admissible in court proceedings.

Copies of all WHS codes of practice are available at <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-all-codes-of-practice>.

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## **Relief on Rates, Development Applications, Provided to Bushfire Victims**

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**Sources: Service NSW, 5 February, 2020; ABC News, 4 February, 2020**

Service NSW has announced that bushfire victims who are also ratepayers will be entitled to relief from paying rates due on 28 February.

It says affected ratepayers will need to take their rates notice to a Service NSW centre to have the payment covered.

It also says affected ratepayers who have paid rates in advance will be entitled to a refund.

Minister for Local Government, Shelley Hancock, told ABC News that it is a legal requirement that all ratepayers receive rates notices.

“it’s a cruel, absurd situation where you send (bushfire victims) a rates notice for a property that’s burnt to the ground”, Ms Hancock said.

“(Bushfire victims) should not be paying rates where there are no council services, no water, no sewerage, and it will be a while before they have a home to live in.”

Deputy Premier, John Barilaro, told ABC News that the NSW Government will offer fee relief in relation to development applications for property owners wanting to rebuild.

“I can confirm that the NSW Government will waive all applicable fees, effective immediately, on all development applications related to dwellings damaged or destroyed by the recent bushfires,” Mr Barilaro said.

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## **TAFE NSW to Run Free Online Mentoring Program for Women Running Small Businesses**

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**Adapted from media release, Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, Minister for Women, 30 January, 2020**

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor has announced that TAFE NSW will run a \$7 million Women in Business program.

The program will give participants access to training topics such as creating a business plan, keeping a business cyber-safe and leveraging social media.

The program will connect participants with a range of resources and support services provided by the NSW Government.

This includes advice from leading Australian entrepreneurs, events and workshops.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data has revealed more than a third of Australia’s small businesses are headed by women, with 12.1 per cent of the nation’s 5.9 million female employees now their own boss.

Mrs Taylor said the NSW Government wants to ensure that women-led businesses have the best possible opportunity to succeed.

“The Women in Business program will ensure entrepreneurial women across the state are supported, regardless of where they live,” Mrs Taylor said.

“It also allows businesswomen to select the resources that best suit their needs, at a time that is convenient to them.”

Further information is available from <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/womeninbusiness>.

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## **Annual CPI Increases to 1.8 Per Cent in the December 2019 Quarter**

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The Consumer Price Index increased to 1.8 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in the year ending 31 December, compared to 1.7 per cent in the year ending 30 September.

This slight increase in CPI exceeded the expectations of market economists and reduces the chances of an official interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank in the short term.

Transport costs rose 1.5 per cent in the three months ending 31 December and by 2.8 per cent for the 12 months to 31 December. Automotive fuel prices rose by 4.4 per cent in the quarter and 2.9 per cent in the year.

Underlying inflation rates look set to edge slightly higher in the coming months as the impact of the drought and bushfires is felt through the broader economy.

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## **SafeWork NSW Safety Around Your Vehicle Workshops, Coffs Harbour and Tamworth**

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SafeWork NSW has advised that its Transport project team will deliver Safety Around Your Vehicle Workshops at the following locations:

- Tuesday, 18 February (Coffs Harbour)
- Wednesday, 19 February (Tamworth)

It says the purpose of the workshops are to provide industry with an update on the progress of the SafeWork NSW Transport Sector Plan, as well as seeking industry advice regarding the development of products and services that will be used to communicate safety messaging throughout industry.

All representatives from across the transport sector and supply chain are invited to attend these sessions.

Registration and event details are available via the link to SafeWork NSW - Transport Sector Plan page on Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/safework-nsw-transport-sector-plan-16526682600>.

Enquiries can be made to Lyn Frost, Project Coordinator [lynette.frost@safework.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lynette.frost@safework.nsw.gov.au); or [transport@safework.nsw.gov.au](mailto:transport@safework.nsw.gov.au)

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## **ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing, Rooty Hill, 25 February**

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ARTIO NSW is pleased to invite you and your colleagues to the next ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing to be held on 25 February, 7.30am to 9.30am.

Guest speakers and the issues to be discussed are:

- New Mobile Phone Detection Laws: Obligations for Vehicle Owners and Drivers, Bernard Carlon, Executive Director, NSW Centre for Road Safety.
- Preparing for NorthConnex: What Transport Operators Need to Know, Pat Doyle, Transport for NSW Project Director, NorthConnex

Bernard will outline details of the new mobile phone detection laws and what types of mobile phone usage are/are not permitted.

Pat will provide an overview of NorthConnex and the regulation of trucks and buses on Pennant Hills Rd.

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

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## Road Works Update

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### **M4 Motorway: Ramp Closures, Burnett St Eastbound On Ramp and Burnett St Westbound Off Ramp**

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

Thursday 20 February to Saturday 22 February

9pm to 4am

Two night ramp closure.

The following ramp closure is planned for the Burnett St westbound on ramp:

Thursday 20 February to Friday 21 February

9pm to 5am

One night ramp closure.

### **Lane Cove Tunnel Eastbound Off-Ramp Closures, Pacific Hwy Exit, 3-21 February**

Ramp closures are in place on the Lane Cove Tunnel Eastbound Off-Ramp Closures, Pacific Hwy Exit from 3 to 21 February Sunday to Thursday, between 10pm and 5am, Sunday to Thursday.

### **Closure, Cahill Expressway/Bradfield Hwy Southbound between High St and Southbound Tolls, 12-20 February**

Cahill Expressway/Bradfield Hwy will be closed southbound between High St and the Southbound Tolls from 12 to 20 February between 9pm and 4.30am.

### **Other Road Works**

Suburb/Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Asquith-Mt Colah	Pacific Hwy between Wattle St and Lady St	4-15/2/20		10pm-5am Mon-Wed 10.30pm-5am Thu-Fri, Sun
Campsie	Canterbury Rd from Gould St to Canton St and from Schaihl St to Robinson St	9/2-3/4/20	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Double Bay	New South Head Rd from Ocean Ave to Henrietta St	9/2-23/3/20	7	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	O'Riordan St between Coward St and Haran St	6/2-13/3/20	7	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Punchbowl	Canterbury Rd between Punchbowl Rd and James St	6/2-6/3/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
South Penrith	The Northern Rd from Jamison Rd to Bringelly Rd	25/1-30/6/20		7pm-5am; 5am-3pm Mon-Fri Sat, Sun, 24 hours

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## 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)	Dec Qtr 2019	Per cent		1.8

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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

Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.75	
Estimated residential population (ABS)	7 Feb 2020	Million	25,594	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)	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)	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	7 Feb 2020	Cents/litre incl. GST	128.7	-0.4

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