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Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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RBT, Drug Driving Tests, Resume in NSW

Adapted from media release, the Hon David Elliott Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy, 3 June, 2020

Police will be back out in force as stationary Random Breath Test and Roadside Drug Test recommence across NSW ahead of the Queen's Birthday long weekend.

In March, the NSW Police Force Executive – in consultation with Police Association of NSW – introduced a number of precautionary measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection to frontline police and within the community.

One such measure was additional discretion from Commanders as to whether or not it was reasonable to undertake stationary RBT and RDT, which saw a significant reduction in stationary operations and increased mobile operations across NSW.

With the easing of various restrictions since 1 June 2020, including increased patronage at licenced premises and higher traffic volumes, frontline police across NSW have resumed proactive stationary testing operations.

Motorists should also expect to see an increased police presence on roads, with police continuing to target dangerous driver behaviour, including speeding, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, driving tired, seatbelt and helmet compliance, and mobile phone/driver distractions.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said the easing of COVID-19 restrictions on licensed premises and regional travel called for a return of proactive stationary testing operations.

“With the easing of restrictions on travel and going out to support restaurants and pubs, the community is understandably itching to return to some form of normalcy,” Mr Elliott said.

“Irresponsible or reckless behaviour that endangers others will not be tolerated – there’s no excuse for not abiding by the road rules. The community has already been through enough already – we’ve had enough trauma.”

Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner Michael Corboy implored the community to be responsible and drive safely.

“We’ve had bushfires, flooding and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic so we understand that people are keen to travel regionally to stimulate the local economy, particularly over the long weekend,” Assistant Commissioner Corboy said.

“However, there is no excuse to get behind the wheel and flagrantly flout the law. The road rules have not changed, and we make no apologies for stopping selfish road users whose irresponsible driving put themselves and others at risk.

“The message is clear – if your driving puts you or others at risk, you will be stopped, and you will face the consequences of your actions.”

Expanded, Harmonised Road Train Network Announced by NHVR

Adapted from media release, the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport and Don Hogben, Chief Regulatory Policy and Standards Officer, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 2 June, 2020

A new road train notice has been issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator which includes for the first time a road train network for Victoria, improvements to cross-border travel and fewer requirements for access permits.

According to Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz, the *2020 National Class 2 Road Train Notice* commenced on 4 June in NSW, Queensland, SA and Victoria.

“Since the original national road train notice was introduced, we’ve seen significant growth in the freight task, as well as the productivity and safety benefits of harmonised networks,” Mr Buchholz said.

“I’m grateful to all the road authorities for taking the time to work with the NHVR to upgrade the notice and update the national road train networks, and I’m delighted that this has been agreed to by all road managers.”

NHVR Chief Regulatory Policy and Standards Officer Don Hogben said the notice consolidates road train combination requirements, facilitates cross-border access and reduces permit requirements for operators.

“For the first time, Victoria is part of the national road train notice, granting access to 36.5m A-doubles on a road network previously only accessible by permit,” Mr Hogben said.

“South Australia has enabled access under the Notice to 30m A-doubles, 36.5m B-triples and AB-triples, as well as rigid trucks towing two dog trailers – significantly reducing the number of permits required by operators of these combinations.

“Also, a number of eligible road trains can now access a single, Type 2 road train network, while previous access was only for specific Type 2 combinations. This aligns with existing arrangements in Queensland.”

The Notice will also provide standard definitions and categorisation of road train configurations and improve the overall consistency of access and vehicle conditions.

The new *2020 National Class 2 Road Train Notice* is available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/national-harmonisation-program/national-class-2-road-train-notice>.

The *2020 National Class 2 Road Train Notice* replaces the *2015 National Class 2 Road Train Notice*.

NHVR Extends Transitional Period for Rear Marker Plates

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has agreed to extend the three-year period for the transition to modern rear marker plates.

NHVR Manager Vehicle Safety and Performance Peter Austin said the NHVR would move to a grandfathering approach that would allow industry to upgrade plates when they are next due for replacement, rather than a fixed transition date.

NHVAS Applications Must be Lodged via the NHVR Portal from 1 July

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has said that all NHVAS applications and transactions will have to be lodged via the NHVR Portal from 1 July.

For assistance in setting up an account or transitioning to the NHVR Portal, please visit <https://help.nhvr.gov.au/cmp4/help-centre-customer/find-out-more/getting-started/getting-started-using-accreditation>.

NHVR Allows NHVAS Fatigue Management Training via Video Conference

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has put in place a temporary amendment to allow NHVAS fatigue management training modules by Registered Training Organisations to be delivered via video conferencing.

This is due to the requirement of social distancing and restriction related to COVID-19.

The NHVR says this applies for NHVR registered RTOs that have approval to deliver NHVAS fatigue management modules TLIF0005 and TLIF0006.

The RTO list will be regularly updated to include RTOs that have also been endorsed to deliver training by virtual means where required.

This temporary change will remain until 30 September 2020 and will be reassessed as the social distancing and isolation restrictions change.

A full list of NHVR registered RTOs and the training they have been authorised to deliver is available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/national-heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/nhvas-approved-rtos>.

NSW OSOM Permits Now on NHVR Portal

Adapted from media release, Sal Petrocitto, Chief Executive Officer, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Susie Mackay, Executive Director Freight, Transport for NSW, 1 June, 2020

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is now processing all Class 1 Oversize and Overmass permit applications for NSW.

“All heavy vehicle operators requiring an access permit to travel in NSW now have a single point of contact through the NHVR Portal on the entire route, including state, territory and local council roads,” Mr Petrocitto said.

Transport for NSW's Executive Director Freight, Susie Mackay, said the current heavy vehicle permits issued in NSW will remain valid until the permit's expiry date, unless amended or renewed by the NHVR.

“The return of delegation is a critical step in progressing the efficient management of access in NSW by providing a centrally managed process through the online NHVR Portal,” Ms Mackay said.

Mr Petrocchio said operators should also check the recently released Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Dimension and Mass Exemption Notices which increased mass for the OSOM network in NSW up to 115 tonnes and width which has been increased up to five metres.

“Before submitting your application, please check you actually require a permit, as you may be able to operate under a notice or approved network,” he said.

The NHVR Portal can be accessed at <https://www.service.nhvr.gov.au/>.

SIRA Launches New Digital Disputes Portal

The State Insurance Regulatory Agency has announced the launch of a new digital disputes portal for motor accidents disputes, making dispute resolution as easy and transparent as possible for all parties involved in a dispute.

SIRA says the enhanced dispute resolution experience will give all parties to a dispute access to real-time status updates, in-system communication, and more efficient dispute resolution.

SIRA's Dispute Resolution Services manages the resolution of Compulsory Third Party motor accidents disputes and processes over 12,000 motor accident disputes a year.

It says the DRS is established to provide a transparent, fair, timely and independent resolution services to disputes in the CTP personal injury scheme.

The digital portal, developed in consultation with stakeholders, will assist to make the process more streamlined for stakeholders involved in a dispute.

Key features of the portal include:

- A one-stop-shop to upload key documents related to disputes.
- Real-time dispute claim tracking online, including instant notification.
- Applications can now be lodged in under 20 minutes, a quarter of the time than previously, reducing processing time by up to 60%.
- Streamlined forms to complete, with simpler language.

The digital portal replaces the current manual and paper-based systems.

SIRA says streamlining processes and cutting red tape is important for all customers.

The portal is one of many initiatives that are being implemented to support those as part of SIRA's digital engagement strategy.

Further information can be found at <https://www.sira.nsw.gov.au/disputes-and-complaints/motor-accident-injury-disputes/using-the-sira-dispute-resolution-service-drs-portal>.

Most Employers to Benefit from Workers Compensation Premiums Freeze

Insurance and Care NSW has announced that workers compensation premiums have been put on hold for most employers as part of the NSW Government's priorities to stimulate the economy and get NSW workers back into jobs as the NSW economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.

icare says that with a large proportion of policy renewals going out over the coming weeks, members can expect their premium notices to show that their premium rates remain unchanged, except where their premium has been impacted by their claims performance and/or any change in wages.

Find out more about premiums, as well as support available to members during COVID-19, by visiting <https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au>.

Labour Hire Licensing to Apply in the ACT from 1 January 2021

The ACT's *Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2020* has passed through the ACT Legislative Assembly and will take effect from 1 January 2021 with a six-month transition period.

The purpose of the Bill is to encourage responsible employment practices in the ACT labour hire sector.

The Bill has been drafted to ensure that labour hire businesses operating in the ACT meet their workplace obligations and responsibilities to their workers.

Further, it will create a framework that is effective in preventing and responding to non-compliance with workplace standards in the labour hire industry by requiring:

- labour hire operators to be licensed;
- labour hire operators to pay a fee for the licence;
- disincentives for use of unlicensed labour hire operators;
- a 'suitable person' test to determine suitability for licensing; and
- licensees to demonstrate a history of, and ongoing compliance with, industry standards and workplace laws.

The Bill allows for the exemption of certain labour hire operators or classes of operations from the Territory scheme, or the declaration of certain operators or classes of operators to be covered by the scheme. It also includes a review mechanism for the operation of the new scheme.

"A labour-hire licensing scheme will ensure the rights and conditions of labour-hire workers in the ACT are upheld with new penalties to apply to providers who do the wrong thing. We know that workers in unstable employment are particularly prone to poor working conditions. That is why this Bill is so crucial," ACT Employment and Workplace Safety Minister Suzanne Orr said.

Economic Update

March Quarter GDP Falls by 0.3 Per Cent

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Gross Domestic Product fell by 0.3 per cent in the three months ending 31 March 2020.

For the year ending 31 March, the Australian economy grew by 1.4 per cent.

Significant contributors to the quarterly decline in economic activity in the March 2020 quarter were the bushfires in January and the introduction of restrictions due to COVID-19 in Australia and overseas in the later part of the quarter.

The following summarises economic activity in the March 2020 quarter:

- household consumption fell by 1.1 per cent, notwithstanding panic buying in February/March as households bunkered down. This was the first quarterly decline since December 2008. Spending on services in the quarter fell by 2.4 per cent, an unprecedented fall.
- investment in new and already built residential dwellings fell by 2.9 per cent in the March 2020 quarter and by 15.5 per cent over the year ending 31 March.
- non-mining business investment fell by 1.7 per cent in the quarter and 6.6 per cent through the year, reflecting weakness across both non-dwelling construction, and machinery and equipment purchases.
- however, mining business investment rose 3.6 per cent in the quarter and increased 10.3 per cent through the year as miners continued investment in new technologies and automation.
- imports fell 6.2 per cent in the quarter while exports fell 3 per cent. Imports of goods fell 3.9 per cent, reflecting reduced imports of consumption and intermediate goods while imports of services fell 13.6 per cent with travel services falling significantly in response to travel bans. Exports of goods fell 0.7 per cent,

driven by a fall in rural goods, particularly meat and cereal products. Exports of services fell 12.8 per cent, reflecting the travel ban impacts on education related travel and tourism.

March 2020 Quarter Economic Performance – NSW and the ACT

The NSW economy suffered the largest decline of all jurisdictions in the March 2020 quarter with State Final Demand falling by 1.5 per cent in the March 2020 quarter.

On the other hand, the ACT economy grew by 2.1 per cent.

Economic activity in NSW was adversely affected by decreased expenditure on transport services, hotels, cafes and restaurants, and clothing and footwear.

Other contributors to a decline in economic activity were significant falls in new building construction, new engineering construction and, to a lesser extent, in dwelling investment.

There were also notable falls in general government investment across all levels of government and reduced investment in telecommunications and transport.

Infrastructure Update

Parramatta CBD, June and July

Parramatta Light Rail has advised the following streets will be affected intermittently in relation to work underway during June and July:

- Church St, Market to Macquarie Sts;
- Phillip St, Freemason Arms La to Phillip La;
- George St, Freemason Arms La to Smith St;
- Smith St, George to Darcy Sts;
- Macquarie St, O'Connell to Harris Sts;
- Lennox Bridge;
- Horwood Pl Alfred Street, Hassall Street to River Road West;
- Market St, Marsden to Church Sts;
- Harris St, Hassall to George Sts;
- George St, Harris to Alfred Sts;
- Alfred St, Hassall St to River Rd West;
- Tramway Ave, Alfred to Arthur Sts.

Standard construction hours are: 7am to 7pm, Monday-Friday 7am to 6pm, Saturday-Sunday

Street Closures, Parramatta CBD, 5-9 June and Ongoing

Parramatta Light Rail has advised that:

- Macquarie St, Marsden to Smith Sts, will be closed from 6pm Friday 5 June to 6am Tuesday 9 June and ongoing on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays); and
- Macquarie St, intersection of Charles St will be closed from 6pm Friday 5 June to 6am Tuesday 9 June and ongoing on weekends.

Church St Parramatta to North Parramatta

Parramatta Light Rail has advised that work will take place on Church St Parramatta and North Parramatta between the Parramatta River bridge and Factory St through to 2021.

Work will initially take place between 7pm and 7am weeknights and will include changes to traffic arrangements.

Once changes are in place, work will continue into 2021 between 7am and 7pm, Mondays to Fridays, and between 8am and 6pm, Saturdays and Sundays.

Work may affect access to customers' sites. Consultation is encouraged.

Lane Closures, M4 Motorway between Roper Rd and Archbold Rd from 10 June

Transport for NSW has advised that lane closures will be in place along the M4 Motorway between Roper Rd and Archbold Rd over four nights between Wednesday 10 June and Wednesday 17 June from 9pm to 4am each night.

Upgrade, Newell Hwy, Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla, Stage 1 Complete

Adapted from media release, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport, Mark Coulton MP, Member for Parkes and Adam Marshall MP, Member for Northern Tablelands, 28 May 2020

The Newell Highway upgrade from Mungle Back Creek to Boggabilla reached a key milestone this week with the completion of Stage 1.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said this was great news for the freight industry which would now experience a safer, smoother and faster journey along this part of the Newell Highway.

Stage 1 comprises 18 kms of the 27 km upgrade and includes two new overtaking lanes north of Whalan Creek Bridge, several intersection upgrades and the widening of the road shoulders to better accommodate the large number of heavy vehicles.

New Barrington Bridge Open

Adapted from media release, the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Roads and Transport and Michael Johnson MP, Member for the Upper Hunter, 29 May 2020

A new bridge over the Barrington River, built to improve safety and freight efficiency along Thunderbolts Way, is now officially open to traffic.

Minister for Regional Roads and Transport Paul Toole said the new bridge would replace the 100-year-old original one lane timber bridge, serving as an important freight and tourist link between the Mid North Coast and the New England regions.

Road Works, New England Hwy, Rutherford

Transport for NSW has advised that work is underway on widening New England Hwy between Racecourse Rd and Anambah Rd, Rutherford.

Work is expected to be completed in 10 months, weather permitting,

Temporary traffic changes, lane closures and a 40 km/h speed will be in place during work hours and motorists may experience delays.

During night work, a detour may be in place via Racecourse Rd and Shipley Dr.

The right turn movement out of Primewest Rutherford has been permanently removed and parking restrictions are in place along the service road.

Additional \$3.5 Billion Allocated to Western Sydney Airport Rail Link

Adapted from Media Release, the Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney 1 June 2020

Construction will start this year on the \$11 billion Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport rail link.

Under a new agreement between the Federal and NSW governments, a further \$3.5 billion will be allocated from the Federal Government's JobMaker plan to the project.

The two governments say the additional funds will ensure the rail link will be complete in time for the opening of Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport in 2026.

The link, includes two stations within the airport site, at the airport terminal and at the airport business park, a station serving the commercial heart of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

The new line will also include a station at St Marys, interchanging with the existing suburban railway station.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Alexandria	O'Riordan St north-east of Collins St	2/6-27/7/20	21	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Beverly Hills	Stoney Creek Rd between Thomas St and Kings Pl	4/-26/6/20	5	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Beverly Hills	Stoney Creek Rd eastbound between Mountview Ave and Queensbury Rd	9/6-24/7/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Darlinghurst	Cnr Oxford and Crown Sts	9/6-17/7/20	9	9pm-5am Sun-Fri
Homebush	Parramatta Rd between M4 on ramp and Station St	9/6-27/7/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Matraville	Beauchamp Rd between McPherson St / Perry St and Botany Rd	9/6-27/7/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Moore Park	Anzac Pde northbound near cnr Fitzroy St and Moore Park Rd	2/6-30/6/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Pagewood-Eastgardens	Wentworth Ave between Bay St and Bunnerong Rd	4/6-21/8//20	34	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Peakhurst	Forest Rd eastbound between Mavis St and Wattle St	27/5-26/6/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri