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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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For information, advice and support on any issue related to COVID-19, please contact Hugh McMaster, ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer, email:

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24/7 NSW Government COVID-19 hotline, 13 77 88

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COVID-19: NSW Government Gazette Notice Formalises Truck Stop Operations

The Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, has made the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Amendment Order 2020* under the *Public Health Act 2010*.

This Order, amongst other things, amended the *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020* to enable truck drivers and their passengers to use facilities at truck stops.

The Order makes it clear that this is subject to the general restrictions set out in *Part 5 of the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020* concerning maximum numbers of persons at premises and social distancing unless it is an essential gathering referred to in *Schedule 2 Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020*.

This Order took effect on 4 April and permits truck stops, road houses, service centres and similar facilities to allow truck drivers to use those facilities in NSW to sit and eat, rest, and use a toilet or shower, provided requirements regarding the maximum number of people in a premises and social distancing requirements are met.

This Order is available at https://gazette.legislation.nsw.gov.au/so/download.w3p?id=Gazette_2020_2020-72.pdf.

COVID-19: Advice from SafeWork NSW

SafeWork NSW has issued guidance to help businesses.

Under WHS law all employers or businesses are required to take action to manage the risk of COVID-19 to workers and others in the work environment.

This may include:

- Easing non-essential work activities that involve close personal contact (less than 1.5m)
- Implementing controls to reduce direct contact with workers and customers, including:
 - social distancing of at least 1.5metres (1 person per 4sqm indoors)
 - barriers to create space at counters, between workstations, seated areas etc.
 - modifying shifts and rosters to reduce peak periods
 - actively supporting flexible work arrangements, including working from home.
- Implementing controls to reduce environmental exposure, including:
 - inspecting and reviewing air conditioning and ventilation systems
 - increasing cleaning and disinfection of high traffic areas or shared surfaces
 - provide cleaning products and instruction for cleaning workspaces
 - provide instruction and amenities for personal hygiene and infection control

Businesses must comply with national and state public health directions in relation to COVID-19

Further information is available from <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/COVID-19-Coronavirus>.

COVID-19: Updated WA Border Entry Conditions

The Western Australian State Emergency Co-ordinator and Commissioner of Police has published Quarantine (Closing the Border) Directions under the *State Emergency Act 2005 (WA)* related to quarantine restrictions which took effect at 11.59pm (WA time) on 5 April.

Under these Directions, only exempt persons can enter WA. Exempt persons include

“(g) any person (other than an airline or maritime crew member) who in the course of the person's duties is responsible for provision of transport or freight and logistics services into or out of Western Australia, provided that the person remains in Western Australia for only so long as is reasonably required to perform those duties;”

Transport, freight and logistics personnel entering WA are required to complete a Border Entry Form and provide it to WA Police prior to entry.

Further details are available at www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/quarantine-closing-the-border-directions.

COVID-19: Updated NT Border Entry Conditions

On 6 April, the Northern Territory Government's delegated decision maker under the Biosecurity Declaration 2020 issued an exemption to all essential road transport freight services from the Biosecurity Determination in respect to Designation Areas of the NT.

All road transport essential freight services within the NT may continue to operate without the requirement for an Approved Essential Worker Permit under a 'zero contact' approach.

No contact must occur between the person delivering the goods and residents in the community.

When travelling into restricted designated areas to deliver freight a Designated Area Compliance Form must be completed for each driver and passengers.

This form is available at https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/810718/designated-area-compliance-form.pdf.

This form will be requested by authorised officers at all checkpoint locations across the NT and on request in remote communities.

It is important that drivers and employees understand the requirements of a company's COVID-19 Management Plan whilst undertaking work in remote communities.

To seek approval from the Chief Health Officer of a COVID-19 Management Plan email the Department of Health, Pandemic Coordination Cell, doh.pcc@nt.gov.au.

COVID-19: National Cabinet Agrees on Commercial Tenancy Arrangements

Adapted from media release, The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, 7 April 2020

The National Cabinet agreed that states and territories would implement a mandatory Code of Conduct to implement the principles agreed in relation to commercial tenancies.

Mr Morrison said the purpose of the Code is to impose a set of good faith leasing principles for application to commercial tenancies (including retail, office and industrial) between owners/operators/other landlords and tenants, in circumstances where the tenant is a small-medium sized business with an annual turnover of up to \$50 million and is an eligible business for the purpose of the Commonwealth Government's JobKeeper program.

He said National Cabinet agreed that there would be a proportionality to rent reductions based on the tenant's decline in turnover to ensure that the burden is shared between landlords and tenants.

The Code provides a proportionate and measured burden share between the two parties while still allowing tenants and landlords to agree to tailored, bespoke and appropriate temporary arrangements that take account of their particular circumstances.

The Rent Relief Policy will include a mutual obligation requirement on tenants to continue to engage their employees through the JobKeeper initiative where eligible, and if applicable, provide rent relief to their subtenants.

The Code is available at <https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/national-cabinet-mandatory-code-ofconduct-sme-commercial-leasing-principles.pdf>

COVID-19: Port Botany Trade Statistics Show Slump in Container Volumes

Container volumes through Port Botany provide further insight into the consequences of the interruption to supply chains caused by COVID-19.

The following figures published by NSW Ports show TEU volumes through Port Botany in February 2020 (29 days) compared to February 2019 (28 days):

Origin/ Destination	Type	February 2020 Number of TEU	February 2019 Number of TEU	Variance %
Export	Empty	51,422	61,806	-16.80

	Full	38,711	39,544	-2.11
	Total	90,133	101,350	-11.07
Import	Empty	1,207	721	67.41
	Full	86,093	102,043	-15.63
	Total	87,300	102,764	-15.05

Volumes of top 10 containerised products in the table below also highlight how lower import volumes were concentrated in non-food areas:

Import Product Type	February 2020 Number of TEU	February 2019 Number of TEU	Variance %
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	14,267	19,771	-27.84
Machinery	12,394	14,966	-17.19
Foodstuffs, Beverages and Tobacco	10,522	10,407	1.11
Plastic and Rubber	8,038	9,442	-14.87
Iron, Steel, Aluminium and Other Metals	6,675	8,474	-21.23
Chemicals	6,613	6,770	-2.32
Paper, Paper Products, Wates Paper	5,380	6,700	-19.70
Textiles and Textile Articles	5,000	6,013	-16.85
Stone, Ceramics, Glass	3,661	4,326	-15.37
Vegetable Products	2,676	2,434	9.94

NHVR Announces Improvements to Route Planner

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has updated announced improvements to its Route Planner in the NHVR Portal.

It says users can now translate a visual map into a text-based distance and time description of their route to help them plan and cost their trip.

The new tool will help operators determine the distance travelled against a single route and can be used to calculate fuel consumption costs.

The NHVR says this will give operators a stronger understanding of the true costs associated with a given route.

The distance and time information can be found in the new dedicated 'DISTANCE' tab.

The NHVR says it is also finalising a 'Turn-by-Turn' feature to be released shortly.

NHVR Updates PBS Frontal Swing Standards

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has updated Performance Based Standards Frontal Swing Standards.

The endorsed amendment will be updated in the Performance-Based Standards Scheme – the Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules and available on the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/performance-based-standards/guidelines-and-rules>.

A summary of previous and new standards is shown below:

Previous Standard	Updated Standard as at 1 April 2020
Performance Measures: - For rigid trucks and prime movers no greater than 0.7m, - For buses and coaches no greater than 1.5 metres.	Performance Measures: - For rigid trucks and prime movers no greater than 0.85m, - For buses and coaches no greater than 1.5 metres.

- Semi trailers, MoD - No greater than 0.40m

- Semi trailers, DoM - No greater than 0.20m

- Semi trailers, MoD - No greater than 0.40m

- Semi trailers, DoM - No greater than 0.20m