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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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COVID-19: Buy NSW PPE Link Established

The NSW Government has established a link to encourage NSW based businesses to purchase personal protective equipment products, including hand sanitiser, handwash and soap, gloves, disinfectant, gowns, masks, eyewear and paper products from NSW based suppliers.

According to the NSW Government, over 1700 businesses responded to the Premier's call to help supply medical equipment and hygiene products to essential services workers.

The NSW Government encourages businesses to use the PPE supplier list for industry to secure supplies needed for safe and robust operations in your local communities.

It says over 200 suppliers have indicated they can service PPE needs.

Further information is available at <https://buy.nsw.gov.au/news/2020/ppe-supplies-portal-for-industry-and-the-community>.

COVID-19: Safe Work Australia Develops Toolkit to Assist Employers and Workers

Adapted from joint media release, The Hon Christian Porter MP Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations and Senator The Hon Michaelia Cash MP Minister for Small and Family Business, 1 May 2020

A new online toolkit has been launched to provide detailed guidance for businesses and workers on how to stay safe from COVID-19.

The Safe Work Australia website has been transformed into a centralised information hub which can be easily searched using a handy content filter to find work health and safety guidance relevant to 23 specific industries, including road transport.

Mr Porter, said the SWA website brings together information businesses and workers need into one centralised hub, providing users with fast and easy access to detailed guidance that is directly relevant to their specific industry.

It includes generic guidance about physical distancing, personal protective equipment, worksite cleaning, how to conduct risk assessments and design emergency plans, as well as providing case studies to help explain how to manage COVID-19 workplace risks.

Ms Cash said that while regulations may differ between individual states and territories, it was important for businesses to think about their particular circumstances.

Development of the SWA guidance involved extensive consultation with SWA Members, comprising State and Territory workplace safety bodies, employer groups, including ARTIO NSW, and unions.

The website will be regularly updated with new guidance as current restrictions are gradually eased to ensure a smooth transition for Australian workplaces.

Minister Cash also reminded Australians that one of the best ways to help ensure the economy could reopen quickly was for as many people as possible to download the COVIDSafe App.

Further information is available at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces>.

COVID-19: State Insurance Regulator Provides Further Support for Employers

The State Insurance Regulatory Agency has announced that it is providing further support for employers with return to work programs for injured workers.

Along with the JobCover6 program recently announced (see 30 April edition of *The Courier*), SIRA has also announced a Connect2Work which offers a \$200 weekly payment for up to 12 weeks to an employer who can provide work placement for at least 15 hours a week to a worker.

These support programs apply to workers injured at work or in a motor vehicle crash.

Further information on Connect2Work is available at <https://www.sira.nsw.gov.au/resources-library/workers-compensation-resources/publications/help-with-getting-people-back-to-work/connect2work-guidance-material>.

COVID-19: Increased Domestic Violence Support

Adapted from Media Release Senator The Hon Marise Payne MP, Minister for Women, and Senator The Hon Anne Ruston MP, Minister for Families and Social Services, 3 May 2020

The Morrison Government is rolling out extra measures to ensure people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence know where to get help during COVID-19.

The *Help is Here* campaign will include advertising across television, digital, social media, radio, magazines and newspapers as well as in shopping centres, hospitals and GP surgeries.

Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, and Minister for Families and Social Services, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, said the campaign had two clear messages that help is here and tough times do not excuse tougher times at home.

The new awareness campaign to promote the two national helplines - 1800RESPECT and MensLine Australia.

Ms Ruston said the new campaign directs women and men to 1800RESPECT and MensLine, where they could talk directly and confidentially with trained counsellors via online chat or phone.

Further information is available at www.australia.gov.au/dvsupport.

If you or someone you know is experiencing or at risk of domestic, family or sexual violence contact 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732), www.1800respect.org.au, or MensLine Australia (1300 789 978), www.mensline.org.au.

COVID-19: Industry Impact Evident on Toll Roads

Figures reproduced below which were released at a Transurban investor briefing on 4 May provide an insight into the impact of the economic downturn on heavy vehicle traffic on its Sydney motorway network.

5 Day Week Commencing	Change in Traffic Volumes 2020 over 2019 (%)
1 March	-10
8 March	-3
15 March	+3
22 March	-3
29 March	-13
5 April	-26
12 April	-27 (Easter 9-12 April 2020)
19 April	86 (Easter 19-22 April 2019)
26 April	-13 (Anzac Day Thursday 2019; Saturday 2020)

COVID-19: Employment and Payroll Data Continue to Drift Lower

Employment and payroll data provided by the Australian Taxation Office through its single touch payroll system for the period from the week ending 14 March to the week ending 18 April points to a continued downward drift in economic activity.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the number of people in work has fallen by 7.5 per cent over this period, while total wages paid fell by 8.2 per cent.

In the transport, postal and warehousing sectors, employment has fallen by 3 per cent while wages are down 5.6 per cent.

The largest falls in employment are in the accommodation and food services sectors (down 33.4 per cent), arts and recreation (down 27 per cent), and rental hiring and real estate (down 11 per cent).

The number of people in work has fallen 7.4 per cent in NSW and 6.9 per cent in the ACT.

Total wages paid fell by 7.5 per cent in both jurisdictions.

The loss of jobs has been greatest in Victoria, followed by Tasmania and SA.

NHVR Releases Chain of Responsibility Gap Assessment Tool

Adapted from joint media release, The Hon Mark Bailey MP, Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads and National Heavy Vehicle Regulator CEO, Sal Petrocitto, 7 May 2020

An online safety assessment tool has been revamped to assist operators to identify gaps in their safety systems.

Queensland Transport and Main Road Minister Mark Bailey said the NHVR's Gap Assessment Tool had been simplified and upgraded to assist operators to examine their current systems against known risks and recognised best practice.

"Heavy vehicle operators tell us they want a quick and easy tool to assess their business's safety compliance with their Chain of Responsibility obligations," Mr Bailey said.

"Now more than ever we want the entire supply chain working together to assist drivers to operate safely and efficiently.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocitto said the re-launched Gap Assessment Tool included a number of new features, including:

- Simplified recommendations which link to NVHR resources, website information, and external material such as the *Load Restraint Guide* and the *Master Industry Code of Practice*
- Links to relevant National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme material
- New easier-to-read format
- Links to quick briefs and relevant sections of *Heavy Vehicle National Law*.

"The Tool includes a number of relevant questions which can be completed in less than 15 minutes and has been updated to link to the additional support information such as the NHVR's *Safety Management System* material and the *Master Industry Code of Practice*," Mr Petrocitto said.

The updated tool replaced the original version which was launched in 2017.

To use the updated tool visit www.nhvr.gov.au/gap-assessment-tool.

NHVR Releases Updated Class 1 OSOM Notice

The NHVR has announced that almost one-third of NSW OSOM permits will be removed under updated Class 1 notices following the release of the updated *Multi-State Class 1 Load Carrying Vehicles Dimension and Mass Exemption Notices*.

In NSW the mass has been increased up to 115 tonnes and the width has been increased up to 5 metres.

The release of the notices readies the NHVR, Transport for NSW, councils and industry for the upcoming return of delegation for Class 1 OSOM vehicles in NSW.

The NHVR has also released updated *Operator's Guides* for NSW and SA, as well as supporting information sheets to assist in meeting the requirements of the Notices.

For more information on the Notices, the Operator's Guides or network maps visit www.nhvr.gov.au/law-policies/notices-and-permit-based-schemes/national-notices.

Full Federal Court Dismisses ACCC Appeal Against Acquisition of Acacia Ridge Terminal

Adapted from media release, Rod Sims, Chair, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 6 May 2020

The Full Court of the Federal Court has dismissed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's appeal in relation to proceedings brought to stop Pacific National's acquisition of the Acacia Ridge Terminal by Aurizon.

The Full Court found there was insufficient evidence to establish that the acquisition was likely to result in a substantial lessening of competition.

The ACCC said the case hinged on the ACCC establishing the likelihood of another player seeking to enter the market in the next five to ten years.

The Full Court considered that the prospect of new entry was no more than speculative.

"This was a particularly important case for Australia's merger laws, and the outcome demonstrates the real difficulty of applying the substantial lessening of competition provisions in the legislation," ACCC Chair Rod Sims said.

Mr Sims said this is also a sad day for the economy, because the ACCC's view is that the prospects of competition in rail freight have been significantly diminished and the impacts of this will be with us for more than a decade.

The ACCC's case was that Pacific National's ownership of the Terminal would allow it to effectively prevent access to new entrants, entrenching Pacific National's position as the dominant rail freight carrier on the east coast.

"We will now carefully consider the Full Court's judgment. The ACCC will continue to consider what changes are needed to make Australia's merger laws work in the way they need to, to safeguard the economy from highly concentrated markets," Mr Sims said.

Transport for NSW Advice: Rest Area Facilities

Transport for NSW advises that it continues to support industry by ensuring heavy vehicle rest area facilities are available and operational.

It says the NSW Government has also taken steps to ensure commercial facilities can still trade.

Contrary to a number of media reports that some of rest areas in NSW have closed or are not being serviced, it assures industry that it continues to service sites, all of which remain open.

Previous issues relating to the theft of toilet paper appear to have stopped and toilet paper supplies have returned to normal.

TfNSW asks that customers can report any issues to it via the Transport Management Centre on 131 700 so they can be rectified as soon as possible.

The location of all rest stops operated by TfNSW can be found at <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/trip-information/rest-areas/map/index.html?lat=-34.5755&lon=149.3540&z=6>

Additionally, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has published a map which includes commercial rest area facilities:

<https://nhvr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eb63f81247844052aaad2f71fe31792c>

Reminder: New Transport Awards in Place from 4 May 2020

ARTIO NSW reminds Members that new plain language awards have been issued by the Fair Work Commission.

These new awards apply from the first pay period on or after 4 May 2020.

Specifically, these new awards are:

- the Road Transport and Distribution Award 2020, which replaces the Road Transport and Distribution Award 2010.
- the Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award 2020, which replaces the Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award 2010.
- the Waste Management Award 2020, which replaces the Waste Management Award 2010.

The Clerks Private Sector Award 2010 will be updated later.

There is only one major change which is to the classification and grading system within the Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award 2010.

From 4 May 2020, the Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award 2020 starts at Grade 3 and no longer uses Grades 1 and 2.

This will provide uniformity between the grade system used by the Road Transport and Distribution Award 2020.

For further details, please refer to the relevant ARTIO NSW Industrial Circulars, as well as the awards themselves, sent to you by ARTIO NSW.

Infrastructure Update

NorthConnex Opening – Latest Advice

Transurban told an investor briefing on 4 May that works are continuing on the NorthConnex tunnel with an opening expected in the September 2020 quarter.

The NorthConnex project director told an ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing on 25 February that the heavy vehicle toll as set at \$23.21 as at 1 January 2020 and would increase every three months thereafter.

The light vehicle toll is \$7.78.

M7 Motorway to M4 Motorway On Ramps, Eastern Creek, 10-30 May

Transport for NSW has advised that work will be carried out on the M7 Motorway to M4 Motorway on ramps at Eastern Creek as follows between 9am and 5pm:

- Sunday 10 May, one night ramp closure.
- Tuesday 12 May to Saturday 16 May, four night ramp closure.
- Sunday 17 May to Saturday 23 May, six night ramp closure.
- Sunday 24 May to Saturday 30 May, six night ramp closure

Changed Traffic Conditions, M1 Motorway, Warnervale, 13 May

Transport for NSW has advised that changed traffic conditions will be in place from Wednesday 13 May as work progresses on the M1 upgrade between Tuggerah and Doyalson.

Work will take place on Wednesday 13 May and will be carried out between 7pm and 5am, weather permitting.

The M1 will have northbound and southbound lane closures.

There will be short term stoppages of up to 10 minutes for northbound motorists on Wednesday 13 May between 7pm and 5am, weather permitting.

Access to the service centre and the Warnervale interchange will be maintained at all times in both directions.

There will be reduced access for northbound OSOM vehicles on the M1 at Warnervale on Wednesday 13 May between 7pm and 5am, weather permitting.

Southbound access will still be available for OSOM vehicles.

A 40km/h speed limit will be in place around this night work area on the M1.

Heavy vehicles should continue to follow road signs and remain in the left lane.

Changed Traffic Conditions, New England Hwy, Bolivia Hill, 12 May

Transport for NSW has advised that changed traffic conditions will be in place on the New England Hwy at Bolivia Hill.

The highway will be closed in both directions three times between midnight and 3am on Tuesday 12 May, including two 20-minute stops and one 40-minute stop.

The existing single lane arrangement, controlled by traffic lights and a reduced speed limit, will remain in place.

Motorists can expect continuing delays of up to 10 minutes.

Kissing Point Rd Rail Bridge, Dundas

Transport for NSW has advised that work to modify the existing Kissing Point Rd rail bridge and construct a new light rail bridge immediately west of the existing bridge will start this month and take about eleven months to complete, weather permitting.

Most of this work will be carried out at night, between 7pm and 7am, up to four nights in a seven-day period.

Where traffic volumes and public safety allows, works will be carried out during the day, between 7am and 7pm.

Temporary traffic control will be in place and will include temporary road and lane closures.

At least one lane of traffic will be available in each direction on Kissing Point Rd at all times during these works.

Bulga Bridge, Bulga, 11 May to Late July 2021

Transport for NSW has advised it will carry out work on the Bulga Bridge commencing on 11 May and concluding in late July 2021, weather permitting.

Work will take place between 6am and 6pm from Monday to Friday, and occasionally, between 8am and 1pm on Saturday.

Temporary lane closures and a 40km/h speed limit will be in place during work hours on various work days and may affect travel times.

The bridge will be closed for a single day on four occasions, with detours in place. More information will be provided prior to any planned bridge closure.

Manilla Truss Bridge 15 Tonne Load Limit

Transport for NSW advises that a 15-tonne load limit has been imposed on the Manilla Truss Bridge along Manilla Road, Manilla.

Damage to the bridge's piers was found requiring an immediate load limit reduction while repairs are carried out.

A signposted detour will be in place for all vehicles exceeding 15-tonnes GVM.

The detour will add between five and 10 minutes to most journeys.

Great Western Hwy Safety Upgrade

The Great Western Hwy safety upgrade between Katoomba and Lithgow has been completed following the completion of safety upgrades at Blackheath.

Work continues to complete duplication of this section of the highway.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Camperdown	Pyrmont Bridge Rd between Alexandra Dr and Cross St	17/5-30/6/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Caringbah/Taren Pt	Taren Point Rd between Kingsway and Woodlands Rd Overpass	21/6-30/10/20	34	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Eastlakes	Wentworth Ave between Bay St and Bunnerong Rd	4/6-18/8/20	34	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Hurstville	Cnr King Georges Rd southbound and Australia St	17/5-5/6/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Lidcombe/Berala	Joseph St from Eglington St to Amy St	1/7-17/11/20	35	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Menai	Alfords Point Rd from Brushwood Dr to Old Illawarra Rd	1/7-17/11/20	35	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Summer Hill	Parramatta Rd near French's La	12-29/5/20	3	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Ultimo	Western Distributor Westbound bridge over Harris St and Bulwara Rd	15/6-30/7/20	5 5	7am-6pm Sun-Thu 8pm-5am Sun-Thu