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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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New Guidelines Released on Delivery Driver Safety

Adapted from media release, Minister for Better Regulation, Kevin Anderson and Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance, 8 February 2021

Draft guidelines have been released for industry consultation aimed at providing better protection for workers in the food delivery industry.

Minister for Better Regulation Kevin Anderson said the gig economy is a new and rapidly growing sector.

“We’ve developed these strategies in partnership with industry to help food delivery operators, drivers and restaurants understand their obligations under NSW Work Health and Safety Legislation,” Mr Anderson said.

He said the fast growth of the gig economy has created uncertainty and confusion in the sector about what each party should be doing to comply with the law and what protections should be in place, particularly when it comes to food delivery riders who are independently contracting to the big platforms.

He said this guide clarifies the role of the platform operator, the rider and the restaurant to ultimately make the gig economy a safer workplace and to save lives.

The guidelines outline existing hazards in the industry and the actions that must be taken by delivery platforms, drivers and restaurants to mitigate these risks.

The guidelines have been developed by the Gig Economy Joint Taskforce, led by SafeWork NSW and Transport for NSW which was established to investigate a number of food delivery rider fatalities.

Minister for Transport and Roads Andrew Constance said everyone has the right to go to work and feel safe.

He said food delivery riders are some of our most vulnerable road users.

The Taskforce's Final Report and recommendations are due to be provided to Government in April.

For more information on the work of the Taskforce, please visit <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/compliance-and-prosecutions/joint-taskforce-food-delivery-rider-safety>.

Editorial Comment

ARTIO NSW has taken an active interest in the gig economy in response to growing evidence about the working conditions of food delivery workers.

This includes a submission to the NSW Legislative Council's current inquiry into the future of work and workers and, at the parliamentary committee's request, the provision of a supplementary submission which focused on the design of a workers' compensation scheme, something gig workers lack.

ARTIO NSW was not invited onto the task force set up to address concerns around workplace health and safety. Instead, representation was confined to organisations with a direct stake in food delivery, including the TWU, platform companies, Dominos and organisations representing food delivery drivers, restaurants and overseas students.

However, representatives of SafeWork NSW have briefed ARTIO NSW on the work of the task force.

In that briefing, ARTIO NSW indicated where the platform companies' business model is being replicated in other supply chains in Australia as well as in other countries.

These officials are aware of our broader concern about the spread of such business models and appreciate they have the potential to undermine established business practices used by responsible, law-abiding transport operators.

Fuel Tax Credit Rates Increased from 1 February

The Fuel Tax Credit rate increased from 16.5cpl to 16.9cpl on 1 February.

Fuel Tax Credit rates are indexed twice each year in February and August.

Further information, including Fuel Tax Credit rates for all fuels, is available from: <https://www.ato.gov.au/business/fuel-schemes/fuel-tax-credits---business/rates---business/>.

NHVR Issues Warning Over Use of "Suzi Coils"

The NHVR has released a safety bulletin to highlight the dangers of inappropriately using suzi coils for air supply to the brake system on self-supporting trailers (A-type) trailers.

The NHVR says it is aware of a number of decoupling incidents where suzi coils have been used as air supply lines to trailers with 'A' type coupling systems.

In some extreme cases, the combination of the design of the trailer, and the use of suzi coils has resulted in these trailers drifting into other lanes with a total lack of emergency brake application due to the extent the suzi coils have stretched.

To ensure trailers that have unintentionally disconnected can stop within the shortest possible distance, the

NHVR strongly recommends that trailers, other than semitrailers, are not fitted with suzi coils and instead use traditional rubber hoses.

The NHVR has issued a safety bulletin which contains further information – please visit <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/sb202001-1195-coiled-brake-hose-safety-bulletin.pdf>.

NHVR Makes Minor Changes to Heavy Vehicle Standards

The NHVR has made some minor changes to vehicle safety standards requirements, commencing 22 February 2021 under the *Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation*.

Changes will be made to the technical requirements of these standards, set out in the Regulation, including:

- indirect vision devices.
- blind spot information systems.
- tyres with cleats and other gripping devices.
- classes of retroreflective materials.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/201806-0290-vsg2-changes-to-heavy-vehicle-safety-standards.pdf>.

Approval Given for New Warehouse and Distribution Hub at Kemps Creek

Adapted from media release, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres and Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies, 25 January 2021

The NSW Government has approved a new warehouse and distribution hub in Kemps Creek.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the approved new Kemps Creek Warehouse, Logistics and Industrial Facilities Hub will help combat the economic impacts of COVID-19 by delivering investment and new job opportunities for Western Sydney.

He said the new development, a joint venture between Frasers Property Partners and Altis Bulky Retail, will include major global retailers, e-commerce providers, health and pharmaceutical industries, warehousing and logistics operators, light manufacturing and data centres.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the investment was a vote of confidence in the future Aerotropolis.

Construction is expected to begin this year and will be undertaken in stages with the first building to be completed within 12 months.

ACCC Issues Recall for Freightliner Trucks

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has issued a recall of over 3000 Freightliner Trucks equipped with a DD15TC engine, manufactured between 2010 and 2020.

This is due to a fuel leak issue and the potential risk of an engine fire.

Vehicles in this recall previously recalled under PRA2019/17902 (campaign RC3149-D19R5A) or PRA2019/17954 (campaign RC3151-D19R5B) will still require their vehicle to be repaired under this recall.

The ACCC says that fuel may leak from the engine's high pressure fuel rail feed lines.

If a fuel leak occurs, this may cause a subsequent engine fire, which could result in serious injury or death to vehicle occupants and other road users.

For owners of affected vehicles, the advice is to contact any Authorised Freightliner/Detroit Diesel Dealership to arrange for the high pressure fuel rail feed lines and supporting hardware to be replaced with severe duty high pressure fuel line kit, free of charge.

For a list of dealerships, please and other information related to this recall please go to:
<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recall/daimler-truck-and-bus-australia-pacific-pty-ltd-freightliner-my2010-2020>.

“The Train Will Just Stop When It Stops” – Train Drivers’ Message to Vehicle Drivers

Adapted from media release, Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance and Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, 12 February 2021

NSW TrainLink drivers have issued a powerful warning to regional road users.

“When you hit the emergency brakes it can take up to 14 football fields to stop, you can’t swerve, you can’t do anything, the train will just stop when it stops.”

The emotive message is part of the latest road safety campaign launched this week by the NSW Government to remind road users about the risks at level crossings.

Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Paul Toole said there is no excuse for putting lives on the line by trying to race a train.

Minister for Transport and Roads Andrew Constance said the emotional pleas from NSW TrainLink drivers in the latest safety advertisements remind road users of the pain near misses and collisions cause our train drivers and frontline crew.

“Trains can weigh up to 500 tonnes, travel up to 160 kilometres per hour and are unable to swerve or turn – which means by the time they see you, it’s often too late,” Mr Constance said.

Between 2005 and 2020 there were 32 crashes involving a train and vehicle at level crossings across NSW resulting in nine fatalities and 11 serious injuries.

Mr Toole said the majority of level crossing close calls occur in regional areas.

“Following a bumper harvest and other COVID demands, our freight lines are as busy as ever, so even if you think you know the train schedule remember the rail corridor is no place for complacency - a single moment of distraction may cost a life,” Mr Toole said.

The new level crossing safety advertisements will run across regional cinemas and social media.

To view CCTV and the latest safety campaign advertisements, please visit <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2dogsbyud8vthhf/AAD28HK5z9HNILzLz6lUnNr7a?dl=0>.

Loadman Australia Gets Type-Approval for Smart On-Board Mass System says TCA

Adapted from media release, Transport Certification Australia, 5 February 2021

Transport Certification Australia has announced that Loadman Australia has obtained type-approval for a Smart On-Board Mass system.

It says Smart OBM systems are digitally connected on-board weighing systems that enable new productivity and safety initiatives using applications of the National Telematics Framework.

All Smart OBM systems are type-approved by TCA.

TCA says the benefit to transport operators of Smart OBM systems is that new road access arrangements may require the availability of mass data collected through their use, which have potential to drive renewed productivity and safety reforms.

Further information on Smart OBM systems is available at www.tca.gov.au/smart-obm.

NHVR Issues Reminder to Provide Permits to Pilots and Escorts

The NHVR has reminded operators of their obligations to provide a copy of their permit to any pilot or escort vehicle driver accompanying them.

The NHVR recommends providing copies of NHVR permits or notices – and any other relevant information.

For more information, please go to <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/202101-1210-info-sheet-providing-permit-copies-to-pilot-and-escort-vehicle-drivers.pdf>.

RMS Issues New Heavy Vehicles Chart

Roads and Maritime Services has issued a new heavy vehicle truck and bus chart which describes combinations which can access NSW roads and provides details of relevant Notices.

The chart is available at: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/focus-on-freight/heavy-vehicle-truck-chart.pdf>.

Road Works Update

Road Closure, Hunter Expressway from 21 February

Transport for NSW has advised it will carry out the work on the Hunter Expressway from Sunday 21 February to Wednesday 24 February.

A10 km section of the motorway will be closed as follows:

- 21 to 22 February – southbound carriageway will be closed to traffic over two nights between 7.30pm and 4.30am.
- 23 to 24 February – northbound carriageway will be closed to traffic over two nights between 7.30pm and 4.30am.

A detour will be in place via the John Renshaw Dr which is expected to add around 10 kms to journeys and about 10 to 15 minutes travel time.

Closure of Intersection, Factory, Fleet and New Sts, North Parramatta

Parramatta Light rail has advised that the closure of the intersection of Factory, Fleet and New Sts, which is currently in place, will be extended until Monday 8 March 2021, weather permitting.

Closure, Phillip St Parramatta

Parramatta Light rail has advised that Phillip St Parramatta between Freemason Arms La and Phillip La will be closed at weekends from 7pm Friday to 7am Monday, from Friday 5 February to Monday 29 March.

The intersection of Phillip and Church Sts Parramatta will also be closed from 7pm 1 April to 7am 9 April.

Road Works, Hume Hwy Near Gundagai

Work has started on an upgrade of a 2.6km section of the Hume Hwy at Snowball Creek, six kms south of Gundagai.

The southbound lane will be closed and all traffic will be diverted onto the northbound section.

One lane southbound will reopen from Friday 26 March for the remainder of work which is expected to take eight weeks.

Reduced speed limits will be in place for the duration of the work.

Road Work, Newell Hwy Jerilderie

Work is underway on the Newell Hwy in Jerilderie.

Work will be undertaken at two locations and is scheduled to finish in late March.

Work will be carried out between 7am and 5pm from Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h will be in place at times during work hours.

Three Continuous Northbound Lanes on Pacific Hwy at Warrabee Open

Three continuous northbound lanes on the Pacific Highway near Finlay Rd at Warrabee are now open to traffic.

Permanent no-right-turns to and from the Pacific Hwy and Finlay Rd have been installed.

Work is continuing for other intersection upgrades on the Pacific Hwy near Fox Valley Rd and Redleaf Ave with construction due to finish next year.

Road Works, Pacific Hwy, Intersection The Bucketts Way

Road works have commenced on the Pacific Hwy through Twelve Mile Creek with improvements starting next week at the intersection of The Bucketts Way.

Work will be carried out between 7am and 5pm from Monday to Friday, and is expected to be completed in 12 weeks, weather permitting. On occasions, night work will be carried out between 7pm and 5am.

Lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h will be in place at times during work hours.

The speed limit will be reduced to 80km/h outside work hours along the Pacific Hwy and between 40km/h and 60km/h on The Bucketts Way.

Road Works, Great Western Hwy, Kelso to Raglan

Work to duplicate 3.6km of the Great Western Hwy between Kelso and Raglan has begun and is expected to be completed in 2023.

Road Works, Illawarra Hwy, Robertson

Road works will be carried out across two sites between Fountaindale Rd and East St at Robertson and between Pearsons La and McGraths Rd west of Robertson for seven weeks commencing 8 February.

Work will be carried between 9.30am and 2.30pm, weather permitting.

Single lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h will be in place during work hours.

Completion of Bridge Construction, Gresford and Lostock

Construction of two new bridges across the Paterson River at Gresford and Lostock has been completed enabling B-Double access for the first time.

Colinroobie Rd Upgrade Extends Road Train Access

Completion of an upgrade of Colinroobie Rd allows road train access between Leeton and Narrandera.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Ashfield	Liverpool Rd between Hercules St and Knox St	7/2-19/3/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Chipping Norton	Newbridge Rd bridge	16/2-26/3/21		7am-6pm Mon-Fri 8am-1pm Sat
Darling Harbour	Western Distributor westbound above Darling Harbour Goods Yard	1/2-31/3/21	40 30	6am-6pm Sun-Fri 6pm-6am Sun-Fri
Kingsford	Bunnerong Rd between Gardeners Rd and Birdwood Ave	4/2-16/3/21	6	9pm-5am Sun-Thu
Landsdowne/ Georges Hall	Henry Lawson Dr between Beatty Pde and Hynes St	30/1-15/3/21	14	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Maroubra	Anzac Pde between Fitzgerald Ave and Beauchamp Rd	4/2-21/2/21	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	Cnr Kent Rd and Church Ave	16/2-26/3/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	O'Riordan St between Coward St and John St	7/2-15/3/21	3	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Randwick	Frenchman's Rd, east of Clovelly Rd intersection	7/2-19/3/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

2021 Functions and Events

ARTIO NSW is pleased to its half day NSW Heavy Vehicle Safety Forum and dinner to be held at the Liverpool Catholic Club, Prestons, on 25 February, 2021.

Please contact the ARTIO NSW secretariat, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au, or telephone 0412 880861, if you require further information or wish to register.

Economic Update

RBA Board Stays the Course on Support for Borrowers

The Reserve Bank of Australia Board met on 2 February and issued a statement following that meeting in which it confirmed official interest rates will remain at 0.1 per cent.

The RBA said the global economic outlook has improved due to the development of vaccines, meaning there is a better prospect for a sustained economic recovery.

It said the recovery in the Australian economy has been stronger than expected with strong growth in employment and reduced unemployment.

Retail spending has been strong. Businesses that deferred loan repayments are now again repaying loans.

The RBA forecasts the Australian economy to grow by 3.5 per cent per annum in both 2021 and in 2022.

However, unemployment will remain at its highest levels for about 20 years, leading to excess capacity in the labour market and a continuation of subdued wages growth rates.

Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index will also remain subdued.

The RBA says both wages and CPI are forecast to grow at less than two per cent per annum in both 2021 and 2022.

An important element of the Bank's current policy continues to be to lower financial costs to borrowers and to support the supply of credit.

The Bank intends to keep this policy in place until its goals are achieved, namely higher wages and inflation levels and reduced excess capacity in the economy.

It does not intend raising official interest rates until annual CPI is in the 2-3 per cent range, something it does not envisage taking place until 2024 at the earliest.

The RBA's forecasts assume COVID-19 remains under control and that the rollout of vaccines during 2021 will be successful.

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	476,043	-3.8
CPI (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent		0.7
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.1	
Household savings ratio (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent	18.9	304.8
Retail turnover (ABS)	Dec 2020	\$m	30,369	9.6
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	25,850	-13.8
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Sep 2020	\$m	163,905	-4.6
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Dec 2020	Number	19,537	22.8
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	86,304	-1.6
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	6 months to Dec 2020	Number	1,338,797	2.1
Employed persons (ABS)	Dec 2020	Million	12.911	-0.5
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Dec 2020	Per cent	6.6	1.5
Wage price Index (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent		
All employees				1.4
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.4
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2021	Number	79,666	11.1
Heavy commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2021	Number	2,047	13.2
Light commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	1 month to Jan 2021	Number	17,485	24.6
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	15 Feb 2021	Cents/litre incl. GST	117.8	-8.5

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¹ ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics; RBA – Reserve Bank of Australia; AIP – Australian Institute of Petroleum; FCAI – Federated Chamber of Automotive Industries