



Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

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# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

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## **Findings and Recommendations of NSW Empty Container Chain Study Released**

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Transport for NSW has released the findings and recommendations of an independent review of the operation of the empty container chain at Port Botany.

The study found there is currently insufficient empty container park (ECP) capacity in Sydney to manage demand cycles, creating inefficient movement and handling processes.

It said that additional ECP capacity of around 4,000 TEUs will be needed by 2021 and 12,000 TEUs by 2031.

Constraints on building ECP capacity appear to be driven by factors such as the likelihood of shipping lines to preferring ECPs near the Port for the storage to minimise transport costs and time constraints.

The study said there is a lack of transparency over supply chain performance and a lack of information sharing needed to provide an objective picture of operations.

Commercial arrangements and operational practices exacerbate capacity shortages and have increased costs. These impact upon the amount of time available to unload and return import containers, and include:

- Progressive changes to equipment handling practices by shipping lines.
- New/additional customs requirements.
- Limitations on ECP operating hours and practices by transport operators.
- Operational issues at ECPs and empty container redirections.
- The current practice of applying empty container redirections without minimum notice periods or expiration dates.
- Disparity in the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) by shipping lines and other information management practices exacerbate this.

The review said inefficiencies in the empty container supply chain result in additional costs of \$49 million per year and would double by 2031.

It said that coordinated actions across the chain could have an immediate impact in addressing current issues and reducing costs.

It said a large number of actions can be implemented voluntarily by industry with actions to improve the transparency of supply chain performance a priority.

The report says performance measures should be developed in the following areas using information shared among stakeholders:

- Empty container redirection notices issued via ECP booking systems.
- Utilisation of extended operating hours for ECPs.
- ECP capacity and utilisation.
- Dwell time reports for empty containers by size, type and shipping line.
- Average truck turnaround times at ECPs.
- Use of rail for the return of empty containers to stevedores' terminals.
- Use of EDI in ECP booking systems.

It says that if voluntary actions cannot be meaningfully progressed within six months including sharing data required to develop empty container supply chain performance measures, Transport for NSW should implement measures to compel the industry to make changes in practices to reduce unnecessary costs through initiatives such as:

- Mandatory ECP performance reporting.
- Reporting and minimum notice periods for redirections issued by ECP operators and other entities via ECP booking systems.
- Minimum notice periods for changes to user charges by ECPs.
- Mandatory standards for ECPs and transport operators using ECPs.
- Curfew periods for stack runs from ECPs.
- Requirements for shipping lines to provide EDI information in ECP booking systems.
- Regulation of charges by ECPs.

Implementing these requirements would require extending and/or revising Port Botany Landside Improvement Scheme under the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2012 to apply to ECPs and transport operators using ECPs.

The report says if voluntary actions cannot be meaningfully progressed within six months, measures to compel changes in supply chain practices will be considered by Transport for NSW based on gauging industry interest in developing longer term solutions which may include:

- Provision of new ECPs, including a joint venture to develop and operate an ECP at Enfield.
- Improvements to existing ECPs.
- Transport operator led proposals including options to commercialise the staging containers through yards.
- Opportunities to increase the use of triangulation through existing or new technology platforms.

The report also recommends that Transport for NSW, NSW Ports and rail freight operators accelerate work to enable rail to play a stronger role in the empty container chain.

The report is available at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operations/cargo-movement-coordination-centre-cmcc/nsw-empty-container-study>.

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## **State Insurance Regulatory Agency Offers \$4,000 Return to Work Grant to Small Businesses**

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The State Insurance Regulatory Agency is offering a \$4,000 Support4Work grant to eligible small businesses to help them support the recovery at work of employees with a workers' compensation or motor accidents claim.

The financial incentive will encourage small businesses to prioritise an injured person's return to work as their operations resume.

Research shows that return to work promotes recovery and reduces the risk of long-term disability and work loss following an injury.

The grant will be paid in two instalments of \$2,000, with the first payment made upon the injured person's return to the workplace and the second payment made following confirmation that the person's return to work is continuing after five weeks.

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit the SIRA website, [https://www.sira.nsw.gov.au/resources-library/list-of-sira-publications/coronavirus-covid\\_19/covid-19-hub-for-employers/support4work-grant-for-small-business](https://www.sira.nsw.gov.au/resources-library/list-of-sira-publications/coronavirus-covid_19/covid-19-hub-for-employers/support4work-grant-for-small-business) before the program ends on 30 September 2020.

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## Sharing the Road Tips Released for Caravan and RV Drivers

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*Adapted from media release, The Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport and Sal Petrocitto, CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Steve McCarthy, Whiteline Television, 15 July, 2020*

The Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz has released said the latest video tips and advice that every caravan or recreational vehicle driver should watch before hitting the road this winter videos.

He said the videos, which are funded under the NHVR's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, highlight the importance of safe interaction between heavy vehicles and caravan or RV drivers.

He said the Whiteline Television videos are fronted by well-known truck driver and safety advocate Rod Hannifey and entertainer Amelia Ryan.

They cover topics such as sharing truck stops and roadhouses or overtaking on a highway.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocitto said the latest videos continue the work the NHVR had undertaken with the caravan industry over the past year.

"I'm pleased that holiday makers, through the NHVR, Whiteline or caravan industry groups, have a wide range of information to understand the difficult roles and tasks that truckies are undertaking," Mr Petrocitto said.

"I'm calling on any truck driver who knows someone with a caravan to 'Tell a mate' to watch these videos.

To view the Share the Road videos, visit [www.sharetheroad.net.au](http://www.sharetheroad.net.au).

Further information is available for:

- Caravaners and truckies sharing the road – <https://ly/3j6va6s>.
- Caravaners and truckies sharing facilities – <https://bit.ly/38XmvyF>.

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## Safe Work Australia Releases Resources to Reduce Prolonged Sitting

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Safe Work Australia has released BeUpstanding, a free evidence-based program designed to address the workplace health and safety risks associated with prolonged sitting.

It says businesses can sign up to the BeUpstanding trial to gain access to resources and guidance on how to encourage workers to stand up, sit less and move more.

SWA notes there has been an increase in desk-based workplaces transitioning to, or increasing existing, working from home arrangements to minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace.

The BeUpstanding toolkit includes fact sheets, videos and email templates which are tailored to desk-based workers working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further information is available from <https://www.lp.beupstanding.com.au/wfh01e/>.

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## ACCC Alleges Megasave Couriers and Gary Bourne Misled Franchisees

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*Adapted from media release, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 6 July, 2020*

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has instituted proceedings against franchisor Megasave Couriers Australia Pty Ltd (Megasave) in the Federal Court, alleging that it misled prospective franchisees with false or misleading promises of guaranteed minimum weekly payments and annual income if they purchased a Megasave courier franchise.

It is also alleged that Megasave's sole director, Mr Gary Bourne, was knowingly involved in the conduct.

The ACCC alleges that:

- from at least June 2019 to July 2020, Megasave represented to prospective franchisees that they would receive guaranteed minimum weekly payments for a period of time, usually for the first six months; and
- from at least June 2019 to April 2020, Megasave represented to prospective franchisees that they would be guaranteed a minimum annual income.

The alleged false or misleading representations were in promotional statements and marketing material on Megasave's website and in online advertisements, as well as in documents provided to prospective franchisees and communications by Mr Bourne and others.

The ACCC's case is that Megasave continued to make these representations to prospective franchisees even after it had failed to make minimum weekly payments to existing franchisees, and the payments being made to those franchisees were not sufficient for them to earn the guaranteed annual income.

In addition, from late December 2019, Megasave allegedly imposed a condition on the payment of the minimum weekly payments requiring franchisees to submit weekly sales leads, which had not been disclosed to franchisees before they purchased their franchises.

Complaints were received from more than 30 franchisees, ACCC Deputy Chair Mick Keogh said.

The ACCC is seeking penalties, redress for franchisees, disqualification orders against Mr Bourne, declarations, an order as to findings of fact, and costs. Interlocutory and final injunctions are also being sought to prevent Megasave and Mr Bourne from continuing to make the alleged representations.

On 19 June 2020, the ACCC obtained a Federal Court order freezing the assets of Megasave, Mr Bourne and other entities controlled by him. These orders have since been replaced by an undertaking to the Court by Mr Bourne in broadly similar terms, which remains in place until revoked by the Court.

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## Economic Update

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### **Fall in Jobs and Wages Evident in Latest ABS Jobs and Payroll Data**

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics based on single touch payroll data show a fall in the number of workers in jobs in the week ending 27 June when compared to the previous week.

The number of jobs fell by 1 per cent while wages fell by 0.7 per cent.

There was little change in either job numbers or wages in most sectors.

The transport, postal and warehousing sector experienced a 1.9 per cent fall in jobs in the week ending 27 June, although wages paid only fell by 0.4 per cent.

Since the ABS started measuring payroll data in mid-March, the number of people in work has fallen by 5.2 per cent while total wages paid have fallen by 3.2 per cent.

The number of jobs in the transport, postal and warehousing sector has fallen by 6.1 per cent while wages have fallen by 7.2 per cent, a result which is worse than the economy as a whole.

The fall in jobs has since mid-March has been greatest in Victoria (6.6 per cent) and least in NSW (5 per cent).

### **Employment Data**

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show a rebound in employment in June following very sharp falls in employment levels in April and May.

Although full-time employment decreased by 38,100, part-time employment increased by 249,000 meaning the number of people in the workforce rose by 210,800.

Monthly hours worked in all jobs, which is probably the most accurate measure of employment increased 64.3 million hours to 1,664.7 million hours.

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## **Infrastructure Update**

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### **Closure, M4 Motorway Roper Rd Eastbound On Ramp from 26 July**

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised that the Roper Road eastbound on ramp on the M4 Motorway will be closed for three nights between Sunday 26 July and Wednesday 29 July from 9pm to 4am each night, weather permitting.

These closures are necessary to complete traffic light installations and test new Intelligent Transport System infrastructure.

Further information, including an interactive map showing all upcoming ramp closures 7 days ahead, is available at <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/m4/index.html>

### **Closure, Heathcote Rd, Bridge Works, from 20 July**

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised that it will be undertaking investigation works in relation to the Heathcote Rd bridge widening at night on the following upcoming dates:

- Monday 20 July – Wednesday 22 July 9pm – 5am;
- Monday 27 July – Wednesday 29 July 9pm – 5am.

Work may also take place from Monday 3 August to Wednesday 5 August from 9pm to 5am.

TfNSW advises that it is required to close Heathcote Rd between New Illawarra Rd at Lucas Heights and the Princes Hwy at Heathcote while this work is undertaken.

A detour route will be put in place redirecting traffic through the Bangor Bypass, River Rd, Linden St, The Grand Pde and the Old Princes Hwy.

### **Works, George St Parramatta from 17 July**

Parramatta Light Rail has advised that the George St Parramatta will be closed to vehicles between Harris St and Purchase St over consecutive weekends, starting from Friday 17 July.

The intersection with of George St Purchase St and Noller Pde will also be closed.

The closure will occur from 7pm Friday to 6am Monday on the weekends of 17-19 July, 24-26 July and 31 July-2 August.

Work may continue on subsequent weekends in August if required due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

### **Heavy Vehicle Closure, Brig O'Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town, from 16 July**

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised of changed traffic conditions on Brig O'Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town from 16 July following a vehicle impacting the bridge requiring repairs.

As a result, Brig O'Johnston Bridge is not approved for access by Restricted Access Vehicles.

The detour for heavy vehicles is: Limeburners Creek Rd, The Bucketts Way, Pacific Hwy, Italia Rd and Clarence Town Rd, in both directions.

TfNSW says this will add around 50 minutes to your travel time.

The bridge will be open for light vehicles only until a further assessment and inspection is carried out.

TfNSW thanks motorists for their patience during this time.

For the latest traffic updates download the Live Traffic NSW App, visit [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com) or call 132 701.

### **NSW Government Preserves Western Sydney Rail Freight Line**

The corridor for the first stage of the Western Sydney Freight Line will be preserved as one of three new transport links to the Western Parkland City, according to the NSW Government.

The Western Sydney Freight Line will provide part of a dedicated freight rail line from the Main West Rail Line at St Marys to the Southern Sydney Freight Line at Leightonfield, linking to Port Botany.

Stage one protects a dedicated freight rail line corridor between the future Outer Sydney Orbital at Luddenham through to the M7 at Horsley Park.

Design and planning for stage two, to provide a corridor from the M7 to the Southern Sydney Freight Line at Leightonfield, is underway.

Once complete, the Western Sydney Freight Line will provide a dedicated 24/7 rail link to Port Botany.

### **Load Limit Removed on Korn Crossing Bridge near Murwillumbah**

Repairs are now complete and the load limit removed on the Korn's Crossing Bridge on Numinbah Road at Crystal Creek, west of Murwillumbah

The 27 tonne load limit had been in place following short term repairs after structural defects were found in the bridge in November last year.

### **Golden Highway Upgrades at Ogilvies Hill and Winery Hill Now Open**

New overtaking lanes at Ogilvies Hill and Winery Hill on the Golden Highway are now open to traffic.

### **Other Road Works**

<b>Suburb/ Town</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>No of Shifts</b>	<b>Work Times</b>
Eastlakes	Southern Cross Dr near Gardeners Rd overpass	19/7-28/8/20	8	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Lidcombe	Cnr Church St and Bassell Ave	16/8-02/10/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Maroubra	Cnr Bunnerong Rd and Wentworth Ave	16/8-27/9/20	25	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Matraville	Bunnerong Rd between Franklin St and Daunt Ave	22/7-7/8/20	2	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Narraweena	Cnr McIntosh Rd and Alfred St	6-30/9/20	10	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Stanmore	Parramatta Rd westbound between Northumberland Ave and Trafalgar St	22/7-14/8/20	3	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Strathfield	Cnr Centenary Dr and Weerona Rd	16/8-27/9/20	10	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Surry Hills	Bourke St north of intersection Devonshire St	5/7-6/8/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri