



Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

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# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

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## **Minister Harwin Appoints Laurie D'Apice to Contract of Carriage Tribunal**

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ARTIO NSW President, Laurie D'Apice, has been appointed by the NSW Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Hon Don Harwin MLC to the Contract of Carriage Tribunal for a period of two years till 6 September 2022.

As the Instrument of Appointment from Minister Harwin states, his appointment is pursuant to s. 347(4) of the *Industrial Relations Act* in NSW.

He has been appointed as a part time member of the Tribunal's arbitration panel as a representative of principal contractors in proceedings requiring arbitration.

By way of background, the Minister invited ARTIO NSW to nominate a panel member. ARTIO NSW nominated Laurie D'Apice.

The invitation to ARTIO NSW to make a nomination arises because ARTIO NSW is a registered organisation of employing contractors under the Act.

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## **Heavy Vehicle Fatalities, Fatal Crashes, Continue to Fall**

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Figures released by the Bureau of Industry, Transport and Regional Economics show a continued fall in fatalities and in fatal heavy vehicle crashes in the year ending 30 June 2020 compared to previous years.

Deaths from fatal crashes involving an articulated truck fell by 7.8 per cent to 95 compared to the year ending 30 June 2019 while the number of fatal crashes stood at 82, a fall of 10.9 per cent.

For rigid heavy vehicles, the fall in deaths from fatal crashes was significant.

A total of 62 road users were killed, a decrease of 30.4 per cent compared to the previous 12 months, while there were 60 fatal crashes, 25 per cent fewer than in 2019.

Because annual changes can be volatile given the small numbers involved in a statistical sense, the BITRE also examines trends over longer timeframes.

BITRE's analysis shows a long term decline in deaths involving an articulated heavy vehicle of just over 4.5 per cent over both three and ten year timeframes.

For heavy rigids, the trend is less clear – an increase of 0.8 per cent over a ten year timeframe but a fall of 6 per cent over a three year timeframe.

BITRE's analysis shows the trend in the rate of decrease in both deaths and fatal crashes over both three and ten year timeframes is greater for heavy trucks than for all heavy and light vehicles.

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## **Federal Government Commits to Enhanced Fuel Security**

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***Adapted from media release, the Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister and the Hon Angus Taylor, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, 14 September 2020***

The Federal Government has committed \$211 million towards building new domestic fuel storage and backing local refineries to stay open wherever commercially possible as part of a plan to further boost Australia's fuel security.

Elements of the plan are:

- Investing \$200 million in a competitive grants program to build an additional 780 megalitres of onshore diesel storage.
- Creating a minimum stockholding obligation for key transport fuels; and
- Backing the refining sector by entering into a detailed market design process for a refinery production payment.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia's fuel security was essential for our national security.

He said fuel security underpins our entire economy by keeping Australia moving.

Mr Morrison said the events of 2020 have reminded us that we cannot be complacent and that Australia needs a sovereign fuel supply to shield it from potential future shocks.

Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Angus Taylor said the Government recognised that Australian refineries are under significant financial pressure and is committed to working with the sector to ensure it has a long-term future.

He said the construction of diesel storage will not only secure our diesel supplies and increasing diesel stockholdings by 40 per cent.

The Government will work with industry over the next six months on the legislative and regulatory design of the package.

Additional measures will also be introduced to reduce the burden on industry and improve fuel market information.

This includes modernising the online fuel reporting system to make it easier for industry to report stock levels to Government and improve the timeliness of data.

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## COVID-19: ACCC Authorises Oil Companies to Co-operate to Secure Oil Supplies

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***Adapted from media release, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, 10 September 2020***

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has granted the Australian Institute of Petroleum and major oil refiners authorisation to continue cooperating on measures to improve the security of fuel supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ACCC says the pandemic continues to impact on Australia's fuel supply chain, causing unpredictable changes in demand for fuel and creating a potential for major disruptions to the domestic and international fuel supply chains.

The ACCC says its authorisation allows AIP and major oil refiners to coordinate arrangements to address fuel supply issues in Australia arising as a result of the pandemic, and facilitate the efficient use of refining and fuel storage capacity during the pandemic.

The authorisation applies to AIP (the industry's peak body), its members (BP Australia, Caltex Australia, Mobil Oil Australia and Viva Energy Australia) and any future parties wishing to participate in the conduct, which must first be approved by the ACCC.

"We believe that allowing fuel companies to coordinate fuel delivery, processing and storage if there is a critical supply disruption as a result of the pandemic, will support the fuel sector to ensure the supply of fuel products in Australia is secure and reliable, and reduce the risk of shortages," ACCC Commissioner Stephen Ridgeway said.

This final authorisation, which was granted after seeking feedback from interested parties, continues an interim authorisation first granted on 3 April 2020. It expires on 31 March 2021.

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## NHVR Releases Blueprint to Boost Heavy Vehicle Productivity

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has released the *Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-25*, a productivity blueprint aimed at expanding networks and reducing the need for access permits.

In a joint media release issued with NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio on 31 August, SA Infrastructure and Transport Minister Corey Wingard said the Plan was an important document to ensure governments and road managers were taking steps to meet Australia's future freight growth.

"The Plan outlines important objectives, including partnering with local governments to build capability and promoting more productive heavy vehicles that are better for the environment and communities, as well as providing certainty and consistency with access," Mr Wingard said.

Mr Wingard said SA is already seeing the benefits of the Notices covered under the *South Australia Load Carrying Vehicle's Operator's Guide*, updated in July and the *National Class 2 Road Train Notice*, released in June.

Mr Petrocchio said the Plan would assist Australia's 425 road managers to coordinate their approach to addressing Australia's growing road freight task.

"Importantly this Plan includes a series of short, medium and long-term actions driven by data and information of freight movements across Australia," Mr Petrocchio said.

"The NHVR will use this as a pathway to provide information to road managers to remove key pinch points across Australia's heavy vehicle network."

The *Heavy Vehicle Productivity Plan 2020-25* and *Action Plan* is available at [www.nhvr.gov.au/hvpp](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/hvpp).

For more information on gazetted routes visit the NHVR Portal at [www.service.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.service.nhvr.gov.au).

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## **New Permit Issued for Specialised Higher Productivity Vehicles on the Hume Hwy**

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***Adapted from media release, Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, 16 September 2020***

The Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Paul Toole, has announced that a new permit on the Hume Hwy will allow specialised Higher Productivity Vehicles to carry up to an additional 22 per cent of supermarket supplies every single trip.

Mr Toole said that under this new permit the maximum weight for HPVs has increased from 68.5 tonnes up to 79 tonnes.

This allows for higher payloads to be transported northbound across Sheahan Bridge near Gundagai and enables direct trips from Melbourne to Woolworths' Distribution Centre in western Sydney.

"This means one less trip out of every six, reducing the number of trucks on the road and supplies reaching supermarkets faster."

Ron Finemore, of Ron Finemore Transport, said his 30-metre HPVs were fitted with the most advanced technologies in the world which has enabled his vehicles to obtain the permit to carry more freight.

Mr Finemore said the use of advanced telematics fitted to the vehicles ensures they stay 60 metres from other trucks while on Sheahan Bridge and comply with a 90 km/h speed limit.

He said the technology also monitors the vehicle's load and movements which is able to be tracked remotely.

Ben Newton, Head of Transport Development at Woolworths, said shelves were being stocked quicker during COVID-19 due to the NSW Government's permit innovation.

"It's no secret food and grocery supply has been stretched in recent times. Having the flexibility to run higher volume trucks up the Hume has been a big help in our efforts to keep stock on the shelves for our NSW communities," Mr Newton said.

Mr Toole said Transport for NSW has also recently granted permits to Linfox and GTS Freight for 35 metre Higher Productivity Vehicles to access key distribution centres for Coles and Woolworths in western Sydney and Goulburn.

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## **NSW Government Seeking Feedback to Improve Mental Health at Work**

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***Adapted from media release, Hon Kevin Anderson MP, Minister for Better Regulation and Hon Bronnie Taylor MP, Minister for Mental Health, 7 September 2020***

The NSW Government is seeking feedback on proposed guidelines to promote mentally healthy workplaces in NSW.

Minister for Better Regulation, Kevin Anderson, said a draft SafeWork NSW Code of Practice for managing the risks to psychological health is being developed to provide simple and practical guidance for workplaces to promote improved mental health.

"Mitigating and managing mental health risks at work can be complex, that's why we've drafted a practical guide for employers, making it easy for them to create a mentally healthy workplace," Mr Anderson said.

Mr Anderson said mental health is everybody's business and it is vital that every single workplace in NSW has the tools to create a positive and healthy environment.

He said NSW will be the first state in Australia to develop a code of this kind that encompasses a broad overview of risks to psychological health covering all NSW workplaces.

“We want to hear from the public as to how clear and effective the draft code is. Once the consultation period has ended, every submission received will be considered,” Mr Anderson said.

Minister for Mental Health, Bronnie Taylor, stressed the importance and benefits of having a mentally healthy workplace for employers and employees.

“Most of us spend about one-third of our waking lives at work. It’s a huge part of what we do and can have a huge impact on our mental health in a positive or negative way,” Mrs Taylor said.

“Knowing how to prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of staff, is more important than ever, and can also make a big difference to workplace morale and productivity.”

Individuals and organisations are invited to comment on the consultation paper. Submissions can be made at <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/draft-code-psychological-health>.

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## NHVR Issues New Fact Sheet on Supplementary Records

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The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has issued a new Fact Sheet which deals with delays which may be experienced purchasing a new work diary due to COVID-19 restrictions in some areas of Australia.

This Fact Sheet outlines how to use a supplementary record if a written work diary is lost, stolen, destroyed or filled up.

Supplementary records can be in any format but must contain all the information normally recorded in a work diary and must be carried for 28 days with the driver’s new work diary.

Drivers must not use supplementary records after buying a replacement work diary or after more than seven business days.

A copy of this Fact Sheet is available at: <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/202009-1166-lost-full-work-diary.pdf>.

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## Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan Released

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***Adapted from media release, Hon Rob Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, 13 September 2020***

The NSW Government has released the “Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan”, which provides details of the rezoning of 6,500 hectares of land to provide for employment, residential and environmental uses in the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, thus paving the way for land to be developed before the first plane takes off at Western Sydney Airport in 2026.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Rob Stokes said the rezoning of the Aerotropolis Core, Badgerys Creek, Northern Gateway, Agribusiness and Wianamatta-South Creek was the catalyst for the creation of Sydney’s third city centred on a new global airport.

“These first five precincts will deliver much-needed jobs growth to Western Sydney, providing the potential for 100,000 new jobs, as well as homes for 30,000 residents once fully developed,” Mr Stokes said.

He said that the Aerotropolis would be supported by the 1,300 hectare Wianamatta-South Creek environmental precinct.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the Aerotropolis will be a high-skill jobs hub is set to become the most dynamic economic development precinct in Australia with jobs in aerospace and defence, manufacturing, healthcare, freight and logistics, agribusiness, education and research.

A copy of the Plan and related planning package can be obtained from <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/draftplans/made-and-finalised/western-sydney-aerotropolis-planning-package>.

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## **NSW Government Approves New Industrial Business Hub at Eastern Creek**

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*Adapted from media release, Hon Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney and Hon Tanya Davies, Member for Mulgoa, 11 September 2020*

The NSW Government has approved the Concept Proposal and Stage One development of the 39 hectare Light Horse (M4/M7) Interchange Business Hub at Eastern Creek.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney, Stuart Ayres said the Light Horse Interchange Business Hub is one of nine existing or upcoming business parks located in the Western Sydney Parklands.

The Light Horse Interchange Business Hub will contain approximately 157,600 sq ft of industrial and light industrial floor space and 7,900 sq m of ancillary offices.

For further information visit <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10631>.

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## **Economic Update**

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### **Latest ATO Payroll Data Highlights Victorian Job Losses**

The latest payroll jobs data issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 8 September highlights the impact of the shutdown of the Victorian economy.

The ABS found that the number of jobs across Australia fell by 0.4 per cent over the month to 22 August.

However, payroll jobs fell by 2.0 per cent in Victoria while for the rest of Australia, payroll jobs rose 0.1 per cent.

While payroll jobs at 22 August nationally were 4.2 per cent below mid-March, when Australia recorded its 100th confirmed COVID-19 case, they were down by 7.9 per cent in Victoria and by 2.9 per cent for the rest of Australia.

The number of jobs has fallen by 3.2 per cent in NSW since mid-March and by 4 per cent in the ACT.

The number of jobs in the transport, warehousing and postal sector is down by 4.9 per cent since mid-March.

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## **Infrastructure Update**

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### **Pacific Hwy Upgrade: Woodburn to Wardell Set to Open**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack has announced that one of the last major pieces of the Pacific Hwy upgrade is imminent with the upcoming opening of a 34-kilometre section of new dual carriage motorway to bypass Woodburn, Broadwater and Wardell.

Interchanges at Woodburn and Broadwater will offer safe access to and across the new motorway.

An additional interchange at Coolgardie will open in stages, with temporary access arrangements in place initially.

### **Princes Hwy Upgrade Opening from 17 September**

Traffic starts using parts of the upgraded section of the Princes Hwy between Berry and Bomaderry from 17 September when new lanes along this section of highway between Croziers Rd and Ison La, Jaspers Brush.

Traffic will then switch to upgraded sections between Wiley's Creek, Jaspers Brush and Abernethy's La, Meroo Meadow in October.

This will coincide with the opening of the Pastels La overpass and Devitt's La underpass.

### **Temporary Closure, Brig. O'Johnston Bridge, Clarence Town, 26 September to 11 October**

Transport for NSW has advised that the Brig O'Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town is closed for essential repairs.

The bridge will be closed to all vehicles from 7am Saturday 26 September and reopen to traffic from 5pm on Sunday 11 October, weather permitting.

A detour route for all vehicles will be in place while repairs are completed.

The detour routes for light vehicles are expected to add up to 28 kms to journeys, or about 35 minutes travel time.

The heavy vehicle detour route is expected to add up to 50 kms to journeys, or about 50 minutes travel time.

Heavy vehicle detour routes (clockwise) are: Limeburners Creek Rd; The Bucketts Way; Pacific Hwy; Italia Rd; East Seaham Rd; Clarence Town Rd.

### **Parkes to Narromine Inland Rail Complete**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack was on hand for the completion of the 98km long Parkes to Narromine section of the Inland Rail linking Melbourne and Brisbane in Peak Hill on 17 September.

### **Other New Road Works**

<b>Suburb/ Town</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Date/s</b>	<b>No of Shifts</b>	<b>Work Times</b>
Beverly Hills	King Georges Rd near Ponyara Rd/ Broadarrow Rd	21/9-9/10/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Bondi Junction	Bondi Rd near Paul St	21/9-2/10/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Broadway	Cnr Broadway westbound and Abercrombie St northbound	20/9-11/10/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Chatswood	Cnr Anderson St and Endeavour St	21/9-9/10/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Chatswood	Cnr Victoria Ave and Neridah St	21/9-9/10/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Mascot	Cnr Gardeners Rd and O'Riordan St	14/9-30/11/20	14	7pm-6am Sun-Fri
Pymble	Pacific Hwy southbound north of Ryde Rd	21/9-9/10/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Pyrmont	Western Distributor near Harris St	21/9-9/10/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Roseville	Pacific Hwy north of Maclaurin Pde	21/9-9/10/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri