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Industrial Organisation

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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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Reminder: ARTIO NSW 2020-21 Subscriptions Now Due

The ARTIO NSW secretariat reminds Members that subscriptions for 2020-21 are now due.

If you have already paid, thank you for your prompt payment.

Please contact Hugh McMaster, in the ARTIO NSW office, telephone, 0412 880861, if you wish to discuss your 2020-21 ARTIO NSW subscription.

ARTIO NSW looks forward to being of service in 2020-21.

Company Tax Cut for Small Businesses from 1 July

Adapted from media release, the Hon Michaelia Cash MP Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, 1 July, 2020

From 1 July 2020, businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million will see their company tax rate reduced from 27.5 per cent to 26 per cent, according to Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Michaelia Cash.

“As COVID-19 health restrictions ease and the economy re-opens, this tax relief will support Australian small and family businesses to bounce back stronger and get to the other side of this crisis,” Senator Cash said.

She said bringing forward these tax cuts will help small and family businesses at a time they need it most.

School Holidays: NTI Urges Australians to Drive Safely

Adapted from media release, National Transport Insurance CEO, Tony Clark, 26 June, 2020

Australians hitting the road for the first school holidays since travel restrictions eased are being urged to take extra care when driving, with many planning their first long drive in months.

National Transport Insurance says its National Truck Accident Research Centre has for the first time analysed the way fatal crashes involving a car and truck occur, after it found in 80 per cent of these collisions, the car driver was at fault.

NTI CEO Tony Clark said they hoped this knowledge would help protect both car and truck drivers as we head into the busy school holiday period.

He said 48 per cent of fatal crashes involving a car and truck were head on collisions from opposite directions, 29 per cent were T-bone crashes and 11 per cent involved vehicles travelling in the same direction."

Mr Clark said NTI is asking all road users going away for the school holidays to take their time, schedule in plenty of rest breaks and, if feeling tired, sleep.

He said everyone needs to stick to the speed limit, avoid distractions, wear seat belts and never drive under the influence.

"Car drivers also need to make sure they're giving trucks plenty of time and space. Trucks take longer to break and slow down so risky manoeuvres like pulling out in front of a heavy vehicle can be dangerous," Mr Clark said.

He reminded car drivers that the road is a truck driver's workplace.

"Truck drivers are incredibly skilled professionals," he said.

"They are on the road day in and day out to ensure all Australians have what we need, particularly in the lead up to a high-demand time like the school holidays. We want our truckies, and all road users to come home safely, every single time they get behind the wheel."

School holidays, which started in Queensland and Victoria on 26 June and start in NSW, SA and the ACT on 3 July, last for two weeks in all jurisdictions.

The NTI's full report can be found at <https://ntarc.nationaltransportinsurance.com.au/>.

NTC Releases Consultation Regulation Impact Statement on Heavy Vehicle National Law

The National Transport Commission has released its consultation regulation impact statement (RIS) which forms the next phase of engagement on the HVNL review.

The NTC says it has worked with governments, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, police and the industry Expert Panel to develop policy reform options for a future HVNL.

It says these are presented and analysed in the RIS.

The NTC says reform options cover access, fatigue, assurance, duties, regulatory tools, technology and data, and vehicles.

Because the RIS is a long, technical document, the NTC has also developed a complementary short-form document to outline one potential scenario for the future HVNL.

The NTC says this will be released shortly and is designed to describe how a future HVNL could work.

However, it says it needs to hear from industry and other stakeholders on how the new HVNL should work.

The NTC says it is taking a flexible approach to consultation plans and will host online engagement sessions over the coming months.

To participate in the consultation process sign up on the HVNL microsite, hvnreview@ntc.gov.au, or email the NTC at hvnreview@ntc.gov.au.

A copy of the RIS is available at https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/hdp.au.prod.app.ntc-hvlawreview.files/5715/9304/9833/HVNL_RIS_25_June.pdf.

Pennant Hills Road Regulation Compliance Guide Released

Transport for NSW has released a guide for transport operators on the twin NorthConnex tunnels and the Pennant Hills Road Regulation.

This guide provides advice, including on the vehicles which will be required to use the NorthConnex tunnels under the Regulation, compliance monitoring and tolls.

Tolls were set at \$23.73 for heavy vehicles effective 1 July 2020 and \$7.91 for light vehicles.

Further information is available from <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/safety-compliance/pennant-hills-road-regulation/northconnex-truck-regulations-factsheet.pdf>.

The NorthConnex tunnels are expected to open by 30 September, however an opening date has yet to be announced.

Funding Announced for Fast Tracked NSW Road Projects

Adapted from joint media release, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier, the Hon Andrew Constance MP, Minister for Transport and Roads and the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, 29 June, 2020

The Federal and NSW governments will jointly allocate \$1 billion towards shovel-ready infrastructure projects and road safety upgrades in NSW.

The funding will be allocated to three key priorities:

- \$240 million to fix 11 congestion hotspots around Sydney;
- \$382 million to help local councils upgrade roads across regional NSW; and
- \$398 million for road safety projects in regional areas.

Funding for congestion hotspots includes an allocation to six intersection improvements:

- Showground Rd and Carrington Rd Castle Hill.
- Pacific Hwy and Finlay Rd Warrawee
- Devlin St, Blaxland Rd and Parkes St Ryde
- Parramatta Rd and Woodville Rd Granville
- Georges River Rd and Milton St Ashfield
- King Georges Rd and Canterbury Rd Wiley Park.

Funding will also be allocated to a corridor upgrade of Oxford St Bondi Junction.

Funding to local councils will be allocated to help repair, maintain or seal priority council roads.

The first round of projects will deliver more than 258 projects across 83 local councils.

Funding Announced for Fast Tracked ACT Road Projects

Adapted from joint media release, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Senator for the ACT, Zed Seselja, the Hon Andrew Barr, ACT Chief Minister and Chris Steel ACT Minister for Transport and Minister for Roads and Active Travel, 29 June, 2020

The Federal and ACT Governments have announced an additional \$35 million to deliver shovel-ready infrastructure projects in the ACT.

Both governments have bought forward \$17.6m which will go towards upgrading intersections, light rail infrastructure as well as installing road safety barriers, variable speed limit infrastructure and traffic lights.

NHVR On Road Officers to be Equipped with Technology to Reduce Roadside Paperwork

The NHVR has announced that on-road officers in the ACT, SA and Tasmania will begin using technology that will reduce paperwork and time spent during roadside intercepts.

NHVR Chief Operations Officer Paul Salvati said that the Regulatory Compliance Mobility Solution (RCMS), which has already been implemented successfully in Victoria, would be rolled out in additional states over the coming weeks.

“The RCMS replaces the current paper-based system, allowing our officers to make better, more informed decisions in a more efficient way, keeping roads safe for all users,” Mr Salvati said.

“Through the RCMS all documentation can be immediately emailed to drivers and operators, including fines, defect notices and direction notices.

“We ask that operators ensure their drivers have current and active email addresses.

“Decreasing the use of paper at the roadside makes things simpler for operators and officers alike, reducing the administrative burden and giving access to more data and background.

“The RCMS program has improved productivity and efficiency at the roadside in Victoria and operators will start to see these improvements flow on to other states.

“With records available immediately to authorised officers in other locations, over time, low-risk operators and vehicles will experience fewer and shorter intercepts and a more seamless experience across state and territory boundaries.”

RCMS technology ensures the consistent and streamlined delivery of regulatory services, which focuses on a risk-based and intelligence-led approach that targets the greatest safety risks.

NHVR Launches Heavy Vehicle Technology Blueprint

Joint media release, the Hon Scott Buchholz MP Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, Sal Petrocitto, CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Tony McMullan, CEO, Truck Industry Council, 30 June, 2020

The NHVR has released a blueprint to support manufacturers and operators to incorporate the latest safety technology into new and existing heavy vehicles.

Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz said the *Vehicle Safety and Environmental Technology Uptake Plan* outlined five work packages to give Australia's heavy vehicle industry certainty when installing new safety technology.

"Heavy vehicle manufacturers are designing technology, both here locally and overseas, to improve safety and get drivers home safely," Mr Buchholz said.

"This technology is available and I want to clear the way to encourage the use of that technology and make sure there are no regulatory barriers when it comes to manufacturers identifying and installing new systems.

"For example, lane departure warning, autonomous emergency braking systems and pedestrian and cyclist detection systems are all available, so let's see them on more new vehicles."

The NHVR's Vehicle SETUP Plan was developed following a survey of manufacturers in 2018, and is designed to meet the targets set out in the Federal Government's *National Road Safety Action Plan 2018-2020*.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said the plan would be delivered over five work packages, including better harmonisation of Australian vehicle standards, better access to the latest vehicle technologies, ensuring appropriate in-service requirements, and industry education about new and emerging technology.

"When we surveyed manufacturers, we saw that there was very little consistency when it comes to installing newer types of safety technology," Mr Petrocchio said.

"For example, stability control was included on 78 per cent of new vehicles, but fatigue monitoring systems were used on less than one in five, while lane keep assist featured on one in four new vehicles."

The Truck Industry Council CEO Tony McMullan welcomed the plan and said manufacturers supported steps to remove barriers.

"By removing barriers and aligning standards such as width and mass, manufacturers will have access to more trucks, meaning more options and lower costs for operators," he said.

To view the Vehicle SETUP uptake plan, go to www.nhvr.gov.au/VehicleSETUP.

NHVR Wants Industry Views on Improving OSOM Access

The Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP) is working with local governments and industry to identify bridges and culverts that need engineering assessments to improve access for OSOM vehicles.

The Phase 1 Pilot is well underway with 100 bridges and culverts across 12 councils now being assessed by engineers. Visit the SLGAAP project site to view the full list of councils and the assets involved in the pilot.

We are now taking expressions of interest from local governments for the next phase of the project. There is also an interactive mapping tool for industry to tell us about any bridges and culverts on heavy vehicle routes that currently may be restricted for OSOM access.

For more information on the NHVR Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project, contact the project team on roadassetproject@nhvr.gov.au or call 1300 MYNHVR (1300 696 487) or visit project website below.

- <https://nhvr.engagementhub.com.au/slgaap-phase-1-pilot>.
- <https://nhvr.engagementhub.com.au/slgaap-phase-2-deliver>.
- https://nhvr.engagementhub.com.au/slgaap-phase-2-deliver/interactive_map/Mzlz.

Economic Update

ABS Jobs and Payroll Data Suggests Economy Showing Signs of Drift

Jobs and payroll data for the week ending 13 June shows signs of drift, according to statistics released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 29 June.

The ABS data, which is based on Australian Taxation Office single touch payroll data, shows:

- No change in total payroll jobs between 6 and 13 June compared to the previous week but a 1.5 per cent rise in jobs in the transport, postal and warehousing sector.
- A 0.2 per cent growth in total wages between 6 and 13 June compared to the previous week but a 1.4 per cent fall in wages in the transport, postal and warehousing sector.

Over the period 14 March to 13 June, the accommodation and food sector, and the arts and recreation sector, have been hardest hit in terms of lost jobs and wages.

Change in total wages paid in this 12 week period has also fallen by more than 10 per cent in mining, wholesaling, and professional, technical and scientific services.

In the transport, postal and warehousing sector total jobs are down by 3.8 per cent while total wages are down by 9.3 per cent, suggesting average hours worked per employed worker has fallen noticeably over this 12 week period.

Across the economy as a whole, the number of jobs covered by the ATO's single touch payroll has fallen by 6.4 per cent while total wages paid has fallen by 6.3 per cent.

Victoria and Tasmania have experienced the greatest loss of jobs in the 12 weeks ending 13 June while the fall in total wages paid is greatest in NSW followed by WA.

Infrastructure Update

Closure, Service Centres, Hume Hwy, Pheasants Nest, 1 July to 2 August 2020

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised that the northbound and southbound 7-Eleven service centres on the Hume Hwy at Pheasants Nest between Remembrance Driveway and Wilton Rd are closed ahead of redevelopment work.

There will be no access to the shops, petrol and diesel facilities at both north and southbound service centres from Wednesday, 1 July to Sunday, 2 August 2020, weather permitting.

Toilet facilities and parking, including for heavy vehicles, will remain open during the temporary closure of these services while the remainder of the site will be fenced off and closed, with parking also likely to be limited during this time.

Rest areas, including for heavy vehicles, will also be open during this time.

The shop, petrol and diesel facilities will reopen from Monday, 3 August 2020.

The redevelopment work will be staged to minimise impact on customers and the broader community, who will be advised of the redevelopment work in advance of the works occurring.

During this time, the site will remain open with the existing facilities.

Work is expected to be completed by early 2022.

7-Eleven will cease operating the service centres during the initial closure and operations will be taken over by another fuel company.

The closest rest area for heavy vehicles travelling southbound on the Hume Hwy is located just south of the Bargo off ramp at Yanderra.

The closest rest area for heavy vehicles travelling northbound on the Hume Hwy is at Berrima.

M8 Opening

A reminder that Transport for NSW has advised that the M8 will open 'in the coming days', providing a new connection between Beverly Hills and St Peters.

Key features:

- Two lanes in each direction.
- 9km twin tunnels with capacity for a future third lane.
- St Peters Interchange to provide direct access to Gardeners Rd, Mascot and Euston Rd, Alexandria.
- 5.1m clearance height, 0.5m higher than the existing M5 East tunnel.
- Flatter gradient.
- Improved, more direct route to Pt Botany on the M5 corridor for trucks up to 4.6m in height.
- Additional HML to access Port Botany from the south and north.
- Distanced based tolls to apply to both the M8 and M5 East when the M8 opens. One way tolls for heavy vehicles will range from \$9.12 to \$20.86 on the M8.

Vehicles carrying dangerous goods cannot use tunnels in NSW, including the M8 and M5 East tunnels. Drivers of dangerous goods vehicles must continue to exit at King Georges Rd or Bexley Rd in an eastbound direction or Foreshore Rd going westbound.

For more information visit www.westconnexm8.com.au to take a virtual tour of the new tunnels and plan your journey.

Road Works, Bradfield Hwy Off Ramp, Sydney CBD from 12 July

Transport for NSW has advised that the Bradfield Hwy off ramp, (Cahill Expressway northbound) will be closed for road works over 34 nights between 8pm and 5am, Sunday to Friday, from Sunday, 12 July to Thursday, 8 October.

Changed Traffic Conditions: Factory and Church Sts North Parramatta from 1 July

A reminder from Parramatta Light Rail of changed traffic conditions on Factory St North Parramatta from 1 July:

Factory St is closed in each direction between Church St and Galloway St •

Factory St is now one-way westbound between Galloway St and O'Connell St and one-way eastbound between New St and O'Connell St.

Changed Traffic Conditions: Factory and Church Sts North Parramatta from 3 July

Parramatta Light Rail advises that traffic changes on Church St, Parramatta will be in place from Saturday 4 July, weather permitting:

- Church St northbound closed between Victoria Rd and Factory St.
- Church St southbound reduced to a single lane between Factory St and Victoria Rd.
- No through access at the following intersections along Church St:
 - From the eastern side of Albert St.
 - From the western side of Factory, Harold, Fennell and Ross Sts.

From 11pm Friday 3 July to 11am Saturday 4 July, Church St between Dunlop St and Victoria Rd will be closed in both directions to install the new traffic arrangements.

Detours will be in place via O'Connell St.

Access across Church St at Pennant Hills Rd and Grose St will be maintained.

Local access to properties will also be maintained.

Work Underway on New Nowra Bridge

Work has begun on the new four lane Nowra Bridge across the Shoalhaven River with \$342m allocated to this project.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Banksia	Corner Princes Hwy and Subway Rd	9/8-5/10/20	30	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Campsie	Canterbury Rd between Chapel Rd and Berna St	5/7-7/8/20	15	8pm-5am Sun-Fri

Caringbah		Kingsway eastbound between Oleander Pde and Wallumatta Rd	28/6-7/8/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Caringbah	to	Taren Point Rd from Kingsway to Woodlands Ave overpass	28/6-30/10/20	34	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	to	Botany Rd from Hughes Ave to Gillespie Ave	14/6-7/8/20	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Mascot	to	O'Riordan St from Church Ave to Collins St	14/6-7/8/20	12	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Alexandria					
Neutral Bay		Military Rd and Falcon St (near intersection)	5-31/7/20	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri