



Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

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# *The Courier*

*Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators*

**Newsletter Vol. 6 No 21, 4 September, 2020**

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## **COVID-19: Legislation to Extend JobKeeper Payment Passed by Federal Parliament**

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*Adapted from media release, the Hon Josh Frydenberg, Treasurer and the Hon Christian Porter, Attorney General and Minister for Industrial Relations, 1 September 2020*

Federal Parliament passed legislation on 1 September allowing the extension of JobKeeper by six months to 28 March 2021.

This follows on from an earlier statement by the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, outlining details of the planned extension of JobKeeper, details of which have been provided to Members.

As the economy reopens the JobKeeper payment will be tapered in the December and March quarters to encourage businesses to adjust to the new environment, supporting a gradual transition to economic recovery, while ensuring those businesses who most need support continue to receive it.

A two-tiered payment will also be introduced from 28 September 2020, to better align the payment with the incomes of employees before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further information on JobKeeper is available from the ATO website at: <https://www.ato.gov.au/general/JobKeeper-payment/>.

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## **Legislation Obliging Small Businesses to Get Paid on Time Passed by Federal Parliament**

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***Adapted from media release, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, 3 September 2020***

Legislation to implement the Payment Times Reporting Scheme, which requires businesses and government enterprises with an annual total income of over \$100 million to biannually report on their payment terms and practices for their small business suppliers, was passed by Federal Parliament yesterday.

According to Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, this scheme will provide unprecedented transparency and will show Australians how big businesses pay their suppliers.

She said this transparency will help small businesses make more informed decisions about who they do business with, and the general public can make better decisions about the large businesses they purchase from.

“Late payments have a significant impact on small business cash flow and inhibit the ability of a firm to invest, grow and employ,” Minister Cash said.

“Shining a light on large business payment performance will lead to fairer and faster payments for Australia’s 3.5 million small and family businesses. Bad payers won’t be able to hide, as this Scheme will expose their poor practices”.

Minister Cash said the Government had developed this legislation following extensive consultations with industry associations and representatives of small and large business since early 2019.

Their feedback has directly informed the design and operation of the scheme.

The Coalition Government has a strong record when it comes to ensuring small and family businesses get paid on time.

She said the scheme will begin on 1 January 2021.

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## **Transport for NSW Announces Reforms to Access, Access Conditions for Multi-Combination Vehicles**

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Transport for NSW has advised that it has approved a range of reforms which will benefit operators of Type 1 A-doubles,

### **Type 1 A-Doubles**

Transport for NSW has advised that Type 1 road train operators will now benefit from changes to access in NSW, with more than 900km of additional road network access on and east of the Newell Hwy.

It says these changes mean more road trains can use more of the road train network in NSW reducing cost to industry.

Type 1 A-doubles with tandem-axle dollies, excluding those transporting livestock, benefit from over 900km of additional road network access on and east of the Newell Hwy.

Type 1 A-doubles with tandem-axle dollies transporting livestock will benefit from over 400km of additional access on the Newell Hwy.

Type 1 A-double road trains fitted with a tandem-axle or a tri-axle dolly will no longer require road friendly suspension on currently approved roads east of the Newell Hwy operating at General Mass Limits and Concessional Mass Limits.

Operators of road trains at Higher Mass Limits are now able to enrol in the Telematics Monitoring Application with Transport Certification Australia.

Operators continue to retain the ability use the Intelligent Access Program as an alternative.

### **Modular B-Triples**

Modular B-triples operating at GML and CML are no longer required to be enrolled in the IAP in NSW.

Operators of road trains at HML are now able to enrol in the TMA with TCA. Operators continue to retain the ability use the IAP as an alternative.

### **B-Triples**

B-triples operating at GML and CML are no longer required to be enrolled in the IAP in NSW.

Operators of road trains at HML are now able to enrol in the TMA with TCA. Operators continue to retain the ability use the IAP as an alternative.

All AB-triples will only be required to be enrolled in the NHVAS Maintenance Management Accreditation when operating east of the Newell Hwy.

This requirement no longer applies when operating on and west of the Newell Hwy.

The requirement to have an AB-triple fitted with certified road friendly suspension at GML and CML has been removed.

The requirement remains at HML.

The coupling and tracking ability requirements for AB-triples that applied in NSW have been removed.

### **Rigid Truck and Two-Dog Rigid Combinations**

Rigid Truck and Two-Dog Rigid Combinations can only operate on and west of the Newell Hwy. They are not permitted east of the Newell Hwy.

Further information on these changes is available at: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/road-access/restricted-access-vehicles/road-trains.html>.

To see where access is now be possible, depending on vehicle type, go to: <https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/business-industry/heavy-vehicles/maps/road-train-map/index.html>:

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## **Industry Input Sought to Improve Local Government Infrastructure Assets**

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*Adapted from media release, Hon Scott Buchholz, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, 27 August 2020*

The Australian Government is calling on freight operators to help improve key freight routes by giving feedback on local government infrastructure assets.

Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz said that the Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project (SLGAAP), administered by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, was examining bridges and culverts and road assets across Australia.

“This project is about working with local governments and industry to identify bridges and culverts that need engineering assessments to improve access for heavy vehicles,” Mr Buchholz said.

“The Phase 1 Pilot is well underway with 100 bridges and culverts across 12 councils now being assessed by engineers.

Mr Buchholz said the NHVR wants to hear from operators and drivers about those assets that should be looked at in Phase 2 to make freight routes more productive for the benefit of the whole industry.

“If there is a bridge on your route that is underutilised or that you would use if you knew it was available, let the NHVR know about it.

He said there is an interactive mapping tool for industry to tell the NHVR about any bridges and culverts on heavy vehicle routes that currently may have restricted access.

Visit the SLGAAP project site to view the full list of councils and the assets involved in the pilot at <https://nhvr.engagementhub.com.au/> or contact the NHVR Strategic Local Government Asset Assessment Project team at [roadassetproject@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:roadassetproject@nhvr.gov.au) or call 1300 696 487.

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## NSW Government Announces Procurement Policy to Support Local Businesses

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**Adapted from media release, Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW and Minister for Industry and Trade and the Hon Damien Tudehope MP, Minister for Finance and Small Business, 28 August 2020**

The NSW Government has announced that Government agencies need to first consider buying goods and services from a small, medium or regional business for all direct procurements up to \$250,000 as part of the NSW Government's plan to boost local businesses.

The NSW Government's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Regional Procurement Policy aims provide a boost to regional economies in the wake of droughts, bushfires and now COVID-19.

The policy also provides a 'Small Business Exemption' to give local businesses an opportunity to cut through red tape and government processes.

It allows government departments to buy directly from small businesses for any purchases up to \$50,000 even if there is a mandated whole-of-government contract in place.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said now is the time for government departments to look locally when it comes to spending procurement dollars to assist SMEs and regional businesses.

Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope encouraged NSW government agencies to consider engaging suppliers from regional areas.

"We want government departments to be aware of these opportunities and to think about the excellent SMEs and businesses in regional areas they could procure goods and services through," Mr Tudehope said.

Mr Tudehope said businesses can also access free independent business advice to build their capability to supply goods and services to government, through the NSW Government's Business Connect program.

Further information is available at: <https://www.business.nsw.gov.au/support-for-business/businessconnect>.

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## Economic Update

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### June Quarter GDP Figures Show Impact of COVID-19 on the Economy

Australia's economy contracted by 7 per cent in the June 2020 quarter and by 6.3 per cent for the 12 months to 30 June.

These figures confirm:

- Australia is now officially in recession for the first time since 1991.
- This is Australia's deepest economic downturn since 1931.
- This economic downturn is by far the worst since quarterly Gross Domestic Product figures were first released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1959 beating a fall of 2.0 per cent in 1974.

### A Summary of the Australian Economy

The following table with selected comments summarises the state of the Australian economy as at 30 June 2020.

Indicator	Change June 2020 Quarter (%)	Change Year to 30/6/2020 (%)
GDP	-7.0	-6.3
Domestic Final Demand	-7.2	

Exports	-6.7	-10.6
Imports	-12.9	-19.1
Hours Worked	-9.8	-10.0
Government Consumption	2.9	7.5
Household Consumption	-12.1	-2.6
Goods Spending	-2.8	-1.2
Services spending	-17.6	-19.3
Private Investment		
Dwellings	-6.8	-11.2
Non-mining	-6.9	-10.4
Machinery, equipment	-6.9	-14.0
Sector Impacts		
Accommodation, Food	-39.0	-43.3
Arts, Recreation	-22.6	-24.5
Transport, Postal, Warehousing	-21.5	-23.7
Construction	-8.2	-10.3
Manufacturing	-9.6	-6.1
Wholesale Trade	-5.9	-4.8
Retail Trade	-4.5	-2.8
Household Disposable Income	2.2	
Household Savings Ratio	19.8	
Compensation Per Person Employed	3.1	4.3
Gross Operating Surplus Private Non-Financial Corporations	14.9	16.3

Key points from this table:

- Fall in exports mainly due to restrictions imposed on inbound travel/tourism and students from overseas.
- Fall in imports mainly due to restrictions imposed on outbound travel/tourism.
- Governments have spent more as would be expected when an economy slows
- In relation to households:
  - Spending fell for the first time since records began in 1959, mainly because of restrictions imposed on businesses in certain industries and loss of consumer confidence.
  - Household disposable income rose by 2.2 per cent due to provision of support through JobKeeper and withdrawals from superannuation funds.
  - The Household Savings Ratio rose from 6.0% to 19.8% which means households have money available to spend whenever uncertainty subsides.
    - There are signs this is already occurring in all jurisdictions except Victoria.
- The sector impacts speak for themselves. Sectors such as public administration and safety, education and training, and finance and insurance enjoyed steady growth.
- Gross Operating Surplus of private non-financial corporations (derived from gross profits) are at a record high underpinned by Jobkeeper payments.
- The annual impact also includes the impact of the bushfires, especially in NSW.

### ***Impact on the States and Territories***

NSW and Victoria were the hardest hit states as the table below shows:

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Change June 2020 Quarter (%)</b>
NSW	-8.6
Victoria	-8.5
Queensland	-5.9
WA	-6.0
SA	-5.8
Tasmania	-7.4
ACT	-2.2
NT	-4.9

### ***The Short Term Outlook***

Those of us living outside Victoria will have noticed more consumers out and about.

ABS payroll jobs data and aggregate wages paid suggest the economy is at least treading water outside Victoria.

Rehiring usually occurs late in an economic cycle.

The fall in COVID-19 cases in Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, is set to announce a 'road map' out of current lockdown restrictions for Victorians and Victorian businesses.

As the ABS said, households have more money ready to spend than at any time since 1974.

Hopefully, Premier Andrews' road map will provide some certainty and encourage more spending.

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## Infrastructure Update

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### **ANZAC Bridge Closure, Sunday 6 September**

John Holland Group, which is responsible for the construction of the Rozelle Interchange, has advised that the ANZAC Bridge will be closed the morning of Sunday 6 September between 1:00am and 5:30am.

Changed traffic conditions including reduced lanes will be in place on ANZAC Bridge between 8pm Saturday 5 September and 10am Sunday 6 September, around the full closure.

The full closure is to westbound traffic and traffic from Victoria Rd only. One lane will remain open through the Victoria Rd underpass to connect eastbound traffic from The Crescent/City West Link with the ANZAC Bridge, however, heavy vehicles have been asked to avoid that route. There may also be traffic congestion eastbound over the ANZAC Bridge while reduced lanes are in place.

Detours will be in place on the night for westbound traffic as follows:

- Light vehicles will detour via Bridge Rd and The Crescent.
- Heavy vehicles will detour via Harris St, Parramatta Rd, Great North Rd and Lyons Rd.

For heavy vehicles, the eastbound detour is the same except it is via Wattle St, not Harris St.

Signage and traffic control personnel will be in place to guide motorists through the changes.

### **Flat Rock Creek Bridge Replacement: Sir Bertram Stevens Dr, Royal National Park, from 4 September 2020**

Transport for NSW has advised that will begin work to replace the bridge over Flat Rock Creek on Sir Bertram Stevens Dr Royal National Park.

The work requires closing Sir Bertram Stevens Dr from Friday 4 September until the bridge has been replaced and the road can re-open to traffic, which is expected by late October 2020, weather permitting.

Detours will be in place for the duration of the road closure to Bundeena, Maianbar and Garie via the Princes Hwy and McKell Dr to Sir Bertram Stevens Dr.

### **Wagga Wagga's Upgraded Eunos Bridge Open**

Wagga Wagga's Eunos Bridge re-opened to traffic on 2 September after the completion of a \$10.6 million widening and strengthening project.

Council of the City of Wagga Wagga Mayor, Greg Conkey OAM, said the bridge creates a new route for heavy vehicles that will help reduce heavy vehicle traffic in Wagga Wagga's CBD.

"This is a key link for our High Productivity Freight Route, which will provide better access from the Sturt Hwy to the Bomen Business Park and Riverina Intermodal Freight & Logistics Hub and connections to the Olympic Hwy." Clr Conkey said/

**Road Works, Fairford Rd Bankstown Northbound from Friday 7 September 2020**

Transport for NSW has advised that road works will commence adjacent to Fairford Rd northbound between Stacey St and Macauley Ave Bankstown.

Work will commence on Monday 7 September and is scheduled to continue till 30 March 2021.

The work schedule involves working up to 170 night shifts, between 8pm and 5am from Sunday to Thursday.

**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	Stoney Creek Rd between Mountview Ave and Queensbury Rd	2/9-30/10/20	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Maroubra	Cnr Anzac Pde and Moverley Rd/Snape St	7/9-29/10/20	12	8pm-5am Sun-Thu
Narraweena	Cnr McIntosh Rd and Alfred St	6/9-30/9/20	10	8pm-5am Sun-Fri