

# **Statement of Expectations for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator**

**1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027**

## **Purpose and role**

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is Australia's regulator for all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonne Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) in all jurisdictions other than Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The NHVR administers the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and oversees safety, efficiency and productivity of the heavy vehicle industry, serving the needs of Australia.

The NHVR acts independently and objectively in exercising its powers, but also operates in partnership with Commonwealth and State and Territory Government bodies. The NHVR is accountable to the responsible Ministers, and the public interest.

The Statement of Expectations (SOE) outlines the expectations the responsible Ministers have for the operations and performance of the NHVR. This SOE expresses the key strategic outcomes Ministers expect the NHVR will achieve between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2027, aligned to the objectives of the HVNL.

Ministers expect that this SOE will inform all NHVR corporate plans that will operate within the SOE term. The NHVR will prepare a Statement of Intent (SOI) as part of its next Corporate Plan, which will have the same two financial year term as this SOE. The SOI will outline the NHVR-led programs and initiatives planned to be undertaken from 1 July 2025 that achieve the expectations outlined in this SOE.

The NHVR will also include an SOE Delivery Statement within each NHVR Annual Report. The SOE Delivery Statement will outline the initiatives and programs completed by the NHVR in the reporting year, or continuing into the next reporting year, that achieve this SOE.

The Annual Report also will provide detailed, transparent information about the NHVR's activities, revenue and expenditure for the relevant reporting year. It will comply with all requirements in the HVNL and meet Ministers' expectations for transparent planning and reporting as outlined in the performance management framework.

This SOE complements the HVNL, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), jurisdiction laws and all other service agreements that provide for joint partnerships or statutory obligations for the NHVR. Ministers expect the NHVR will fulfil all duties and responsibilities under the HVNL and other partnership agreements during the term of this SOE.

## **Strategic context**

Under national and state and territory road safety strategies, all Australian governments have committed to achieving significant reductions in road trauma by 2030. The NHVR will continue to play a crucial role in supporting these commitments during the term of this SOE. Ministers expect the NHVR will continue to encourage safer industry behaviours and practices, and promote road safety behaviours for all road and transport users. To achieve this, Ministers expect the NHVR will continue

to demonstrate best practice in intelligence-led and risk-responsive regulation of the heavy vehicle industry.

All Australian governments will continue working toward significant greenhouse gas and emissions reduction commitments in the term of this SOE. Ministers expect the NHVR will support these efforts by encouraging industry to take up newer, cleaner and more efficient heavy vehicles, including low- and zero-emission heavy vehicles.

Governments will also continue to deliver a significant national heavy vehicle reform agenda during the term of this SOE. The NHVR will continue to collaborate with governments and key stakeholders to implement all agreed national reforms, including the National Access Framework for Heavy Vehicles (NAFHV) and National Automated Access System (NAAS), and HVNL reforms.

Consistent with the objects of the HVNL, Ministers expect that the NHVR will take a coordinated and integrated approach to achieving the safety, compliance, sustainability, and productivity outcomes articulated in this SOE. The NHVR and jurisdictions will collaborate to share information and intelligence that enhances productivity and sustainability, while also improving safety for all road users, preserving public amenity, and effectively managing impacts to road infrastructure.

## **Ministers' expectations**

During the term of this SOE, Ministers expect that the NHVR will:

- Improve safety for all road and transport users, aligning its activities with National, State and Territory road safety strategies, and delivering on the objectives and intent of relevant legislation.
- Innovate and embrace technology that delivers safety, productivity, sustainability and compliance outcomes.
- Support the development and operation of efficient and sustainable transport systems.
- Facilitate freight productivity and minimise regulatory burden to industry.
- Support local, State and Territory, and National disaster recovery and incident and emergency response efforts.
- Support reform priorities agreed to by the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) and its associated delegated committees. This includes the NAFHV and NAAS, and HVNL reforms.

Ministers expect that in delivering this SOE, the NHVR will maintain open, transparent and collaborative relationships with participating jurisdictions. The NHVR will take an integrated, 'whole of system' view both in delivering this SOE and fulfilling its duties under the HVNL, jurisdictional law, and relevant state and territory MoUs.

## **Strategic priorities**

### **The NHVR will improve safety for all road and transport users.**

Ministers expect that the NHVR will undertake pragmatic, risk-responsive regulation that protects safety for all road and transport users. The NHVR will encourage high levels of voluntary compliance, minimising the regulatory burden on industry.

The NHVR will continue to actively attempt to reduce heavy vehicle crashes that result in death or serious injury. The NHVR will continue to drive improvements in heavy vehicle roadworthiness and operational safety, reducing heavy vehicle breakdowns, near-misses, and crashes.

The NHVR will also promote safety behaviour and attempt to reduce recidivism within heavy vehicle operations. The NHVR will promote safe industry practices regarding fatigue management, fitness for work, off-route travel, vehicle standards, and mass, dimension and loading.

The National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 expresses the key national road safety priorities for all vehicles and road users nationwide. Ministers expect that the NHVR will align its activities with the priorities outlined in this strategy, as well as jurisdictions' accompanying Action Plans and relevant HVNL and other national reforms.

Ministers expect the NHVR to engage meaningfully with the development of safety-related legislation, including the maintenance of the HVNL and Regulations, and the development of national road vehicle standards. The NHVR will also work with the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator to improve safety at level crossings, and engage with reforms to the Rail Safety National Law and interface agreements between road and rail infrastructure managers.

The NHVR will convene an annual forum for jurisdictions to discuss and promote road safety efforts, strategies, and consistent enforcement practices.

**The NHVR will innovate and embrace technology that delivers improvements in safety, sustainability, and productivity outcomes.**

During the term of this SOE, the NHVR will continue working to promote uptake of newer, safer, and cleaner heavy vehicle technologies. The NHVR will partner with jurisdictions to develop nationally consistent policy and practice enabling greater uptake of low- and zero-emission heavy vehicles.

Ministers expect that the NHVR will pivot its information and communication technology (ICT) investment strategy to prioritise delivery of the NAAS. Consistent with the decision of the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials' Committee (ITSOC) in July 2023, the NAAS will be based on the Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS).

The NHVR will use technology to achieve efficiency and productivity outcomes, supporting high levels of voluntary compliance. The NHVR will continue to enhance the NHVR-administered portal and National Network Map, consistent with and in preparation for a NAAS based on HVAMS.

The NHVR will encourage the adoption of innovative vehicle safety technologies through the schemes, programs and notices it administers. The NHVR will also support jurisdictional policy initiatives as requested, to help achieve road safety, infrastructure management, productivity, and sustainability outcomes.

The NHVR must also ensure that all NHVR ICT systems have a robust cybersecurity architecture, so that these systems – particularly those containing sensitive data – are protected from cyber threats.

**The NHVR will support development and maintenance of efficient and sustainable transport systems, enabling productive, liveable cities and regions.**

Ministers expect that the NHVR will be a modern, intelligence-led regulator. It will take a risk-based and data-driven regulation approach that effectively manages the impact of heavy vehicles on the environment, public amenity, and road infrastructure.

In line with the National Regulatory Model, the NHVR will actively monitor and respond to non-compliance trends and issues it identifies. When presented with relevant intelligence by Commonwealth, State, Territory and/or Local Government bodies, Ministers expect the NHVR will undertake firmly and appropriately compliance and enforcement action.

The NHVR will also continue to work with the wider community to increase understanding of heavy vehicle operations. This will focus on explaining how to safely share the road with heavy vehicles, and the benefits of heavy vehicle operations, such as maintaining high standards of living.

**The NHVR will facilitate freight productivity and minimise regulatory burden to industry.**

During the term of this SOE, the NHVR will continue to drive improvements in national freight productivity. In achieving this priority, the NHVR will align its plans and programs with the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, and relevant jurisdictional strategies and action plans.

The NHVR will continue to support improvements in access management administration and systems, and continue work to support increased nationally harmonised access decision-making.

**The NHVR will support local, State and Territory, and National incident and emergency response and disaster recovery efforts.**

Ministers expect the NHVR will continue to be responsive to safety incidents, emergencies, and natural disaster events affecting transport networks. The NHVR will work with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies to ensure an effective emergency and disaster response and recovery, in line with all relevant MOUs and partnership agreements.

The NHVR will cooperate with other enforcement agencies, including Police, Australian Border Force, and Environmental Protection Authorities, for joint operations as required. The NHVR will adhere to jurisdictional emergency response and disaster recovery frameworks, as required.

**The NHVR will be collaborative, transparent, and take a 'whole of system' perspective.**

The NHVR will be transparent and engage in meaningful consultation with industry and government stakeholders to achieve this SOE. Consistent with expectations expressed through the performance management framework, the NHVR will provide transparent information annually about the details of key strategic projects planned and undertaken, HVNL regulatory services provided, and road safety outcomes achieved in each HVNL-participating jurisdiction.

Ministers expect the NHVR will conduct its operational activities in a transparent, efficient and effective manner. It will continue to maintain and enhance arrangements for collecting and sharing data, information and intelligence with and between government authorities and

agencies, in line with relevant partnership agreements and MOUs.

The NHVR and jurisdictions will continue to collaborate to implement strategic initiatives and non-legislative reform measures, as well as the HVNL reform program. The NHVR will provide timely, accurate and appropriately detailed advice to stakeholders and responsible Ministers relevant to this program, as and when requested.

## Performance measurement framework

This performance measurement framework details Ministers' expectations for the NHVR's strategic planning and reporting relevant to the expectations expressed in this SOE. Annexure A depicts the expectations for NHVR planning and reporting outlined in this framework.

This performance measurement framework exists in addition and complementary to performance and reporting frameworks set out in relevant MOUs and partnership agreements between the NHVR and government authorities and agencies.

Priority	Measure
Strategic priorities	<p><b>Every six months:</b> The NHVR will report through the National Policy and Strategy Group (NPSG) on the NHVR Corporate Plan initiatives and operational activities of promoting public safety. The NHVR will provide regular analytics relating to registration, crash, defect, intercept and infringement data through the Safety Compliance and Regulatory Platform (SCRIP).</p> <p><b>Each financial year:</b> <u>NHVR Corporate Plan</u> Under the HVNL, the NHVR must prepare and deliver an annual, three-year rolling Corporate Plan, including a three-year budget statement. This must be provided to Ministers no later than 30 days prior to the end of the preceding financial year. Each Corporate Plan that will operate within the term of this SOE will include the Statement of Intent prepared in response to this SOE.</p> <p>Ministers expect that the NHVR will provide details of the three-year budget statement planned to be contained in the Corporate Plan to government agencies by no later than 90 days prior to the end of the preceding financial year.</p> <p>The NHVR will work with government agencies as a priority in 2025 to agree on the scope of information that will be provided in future budget statements.</p> <p>Ministers expect that the budget information provided to government agencies in advance of the Corporate Plan will provide detail about the items comprising each revenue and expenditure budget line item. This detailed budget information will include project-level or jurisdictional breakdowns, as relevant to the budget line item.</p> <p><u>NHVR Annual Report</u> Under the HVNL, the NHVR must deliver an Annual Report within three months after the end of the financial year. The Annual Report must comply with the requirements set out in section 693(2) of the HVNL.</p>

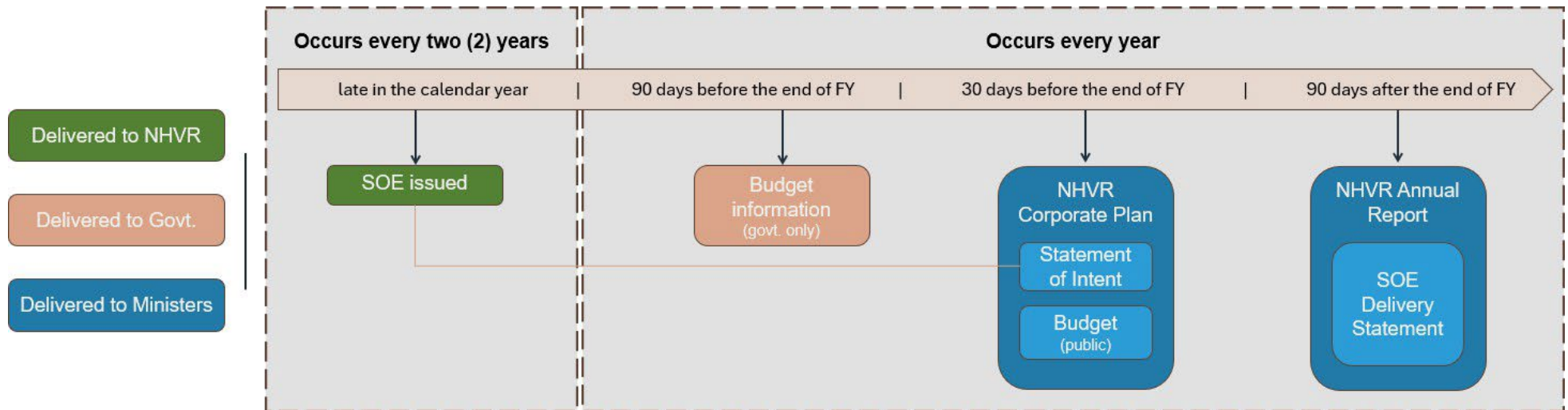
	<p>Ministers expect that the NHVR will include an SOE Delivery Statement as a discrete section within the Annual Report. The SOE Delivery Statement will detail the specific initiatives and programs completed by the NHVR in the reporting year, and/or continuing into the next reporting year, that achieve this SOE.</p> <p>The NHVR will monitor performance and provide numerical and trend data against the national performance measures set out in the NHVR Corporate Plan through the Annual Report. These measures will be developed in consultation with participating jurisdictions via the NPSG, will be relevant to measuring the expectations in this SOE, and will remain consistent for the two-year term of this SOE.</p> <p>The Annual Report will incorporate regulatory outcome performance frameworks relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety performance.</li> <li>• Compliance and enforcement.</li> <li>• Productivity, including improved connections of key networks (origin to destination) for all heavy vehicles.</li> <li>• Sustainability, including increasing uptake of cleaner, safer, and more efficient vehicles.</li> <li>• Regulatory capability, including details of initiatives that reduce red tape and regulatory burdens.</li> </ul> <p>The Annual Report will also provide details of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HVNL regulatory services provided by the NHVR in each participating jurisdiction in the reporting year.</li> <li>• Overall income and expenditure for the reporting year, including project-level and jurisdiction-level breakdowns as relevant to the information reported in the financial statements.</li> </ul>
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Collaboration	<p><b>Quarterly:</b> Convene an NPSG meeting to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review NHVR Corporate Plans, including performance against these measures, prior to progressing these measures and plans through the ITSOC and Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) process.</li> <li>• Report on compliance and enforcement activity undertaken within each participating jurisdiction, including actions taken in response to non-compliance issues identified.</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for continuous improvement in strategic relationships with participating jurisdictions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ongoing:</b> Timely and accurate responses to jurisdictions' requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding heavy vehicle access (e.g., to update the National Network Map when required), and NHVR portal enhancement projects.</li> <li>• To progress national reform initiatives, including legislative and non-legislative heavy vehicle national law reforms in all relevant forums approved by Ministers in addition to the NPSG (e.g., the Safety and Productivity Program, National Heavy Vehicle Access Framework Working Group).</li> </ul>
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## Annexure A

### Planning and reporting framework



#### Key information:

- The Statement of Expectations (SOE) is prepared and issued to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) every two years.
- The NHVR prepares a Statement of Intent (SOI) every two years, in response to the SOE. An SOI is prepared in response to each SOE issued.
- The SOI is included in the first NHVR Corporate Plan after the SOE is issued. That SOI is also included in the following financial year's NHVR Corporate Plan, and only updated if necessary.
- Budget information provided to governments is more detailed than the budget information provided in the NHVR Corporate Plan.
- The NHVR delivers an SOE Delivery Statement as part of each NHVR Annual Report.