

# Where to from here?

## National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey Overview

### The heavy vehicle health check

The NHVR coordinated a National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey (NRBS) of 7,130 heavy vehicles across Australia during August to November 2016. Throughout the survey period 364 transport inspectors inspected rigid trucks, semi-trailers, B-doubles, road trains, buses and special purpose vehicles (SPV) at 168 inspection sites, including roadside check points and in state inspection facilities and transport operator depots.

### Inspecting the right vehicles for the right reasons

The results of the National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey provides data to support a more consistent, focused and efficient inspection approach. The data enables the NHVR to identify high-risk vehicle components, vehicle systems, vehicle types, operators and industry sectors.

The objective of the NHVR moving toward selecting vehicles based on risk is to improve efficiency of inspection resources, which will ultimately improve the safety of the national heavy vehicle fleet.

A framework for inspecting vehicles based on risk is to be presented to Ministers at the Transport Infrastructure Council (TIC) meeting in November 2017.

### Good maintenance practice

The benefit for industry of moving toward inspecting vehicles based on risk is a more efficient use of your time. Vehicles will be inspected based on evidence and inspections will be led by a Consistent Inspection Framework implemented around the country.

### Building a consistent way of inspecting

The National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual (NHVIM) formed the basis of the health check inspection and will continue to support consistent reporting of inspection outcomes nationally. Through consistent reporting the NHVR will be able to focus on identifying high-risk vehicle components, vehicle systems, vehicle types, operators and industry sectors.

The NRBS results highlight that there is a need for the NHVR to set standards for inspectors to deliver consistent inspection outcomes nationally. The Roadworthiness Program is working on developing a Consistent Inspection Framework which aims to be a transparent and reliable inspection method for regulating inspection of heavy vehicles.

### Consistent inspections, consistent outcomes

The inspection approach adopted by inspectors across the country will be the same. So, when a vehicle is selected for inspection, the process and outcome will be reliable, regardless of where the vehicle is inspected.

### Future research activities

The survey provided a point-in-time snapshot of the mechanical condition of Australia's heavy vehicle fleet to enable us to create a nationally consistent inspection approach. Another national survey is proposed to occur within three years to evaluate the success of any new national inspection approach adopted.

The NHVR will also use the data from NRBS to focus on specific mechanical factors that are high risk and critical to vehicle safety, such as brakes. There is still further work required to assist the NHVR's national consistent inspection approach and this may include an analysis of state compliance data compared to the NRBS results, as well as identifying trends and correlations between the results. There is also work required to determine the extent of the link between mechanical condition and heavy vehicle crashes to continue to inform our risk and evidence-based approach to heavy vehicle maintenance.

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Figure 1: An overview of the Roadworthiness Program

