

Temporary and Unscheduled Detours and Road Closures

The information provided in this document is based on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) networks policy and the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Road closure versus network amendments

Route and network changes under the HVNL are not the same thing as actual road closures and detours under the road rules. A road closure or detour effects all vehicles and takes precedence over a HVNL route declaration.

The HVNL only provides powers to declare routes and networks in relation to a heavy vehicle exemption or authority. Any such declarations is subject to road manager consent.

Road closures or detours are required as a result of temporary and emergent events, such as motor vehicle accidents, parades, unscheduled road works, weather events or similar circumstances.

Road closures and detours are subject to the relevant jurisdiction's road rules and road infrastructure legislation. The HVNL does not provide any powers to the NHVR to close roads.

What happens to a declared heavy vehicle route when a road is closed or detoured

By default, a road closure or detour will automatically close or detour a heavy vehicle route.

If a road manager closes or detours a road as a result of an incident, it ensues that the relevant heavy vehicle declared route follows the detour.

Road managers (RM) are not obliged to inform the NHVR of all road closures or detours. The NHVR does not require the amendment of maps for road closures that are **shorter or equal to three days**.

When the requirement to close a road temporarily occurs, it is the road manager's responsibility to ensure that the detour is safe for all traffic that will use that route. If heavy vehicles cannot be detoured for safety reasons, the Road Manager should inform the relevant Road Authority or the NHVR immediately so relevant communications can be sent to those impacted.

Road Closure and Detour Requirements

It is the road managers responsibility to ensure the detour is suitable and meets the relevant traffic regulations.

This includes approving access to meet the safety requirements of any heavy vehicle access granted under a detour.

Who needs to be consulted?

Road Managers are not obliged to inform NHVR of road closures or detours of up to three day's duration. For durations up to three days, the temporary detour or road closure simply serves to redirect the traffic to alternative roads.

There is an exception if a suitable detour cannot be provided for heavy vehicles. In this case, the Road Manager must immediately inform the relevant Road Authority or the NHVR.

Where can I find more information on traffic management?

Austrroads developed and released a Guide to Traffic Management that was adopted by all road agencies in Australia.

<https://www.onlinepublications.austrroads.com.au/>

What happens if the road closure is longer than three days?

Road Managers are required to inform the relevant road authority (VicRoads, RMS, TMR, etc) and the NHVR that the road is closed and/or a detour is in place. The NHVR must acknowledge the Road Manager request.

The relevant road authority in turn will update any related maps.

Other information

Refer to the NHVR's pre-approval and gazettal information sheet.

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

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