



## Message from the CEO

Welcome to this fortnight's issue of *On the Road*.

The drought conditions in NSW, Victoria, SA and Queensland continue to be at the forefront of our minds.

Having spent most of last week travelling through regional NSW I saw some of the serious challenges facing many primary producers to keep stock alive.

Like many organisations, the NHVR is looking at ways it can ease the burden.

This includes working with road managers to fast track permit applications for truck movement on and off drought-affected properties. This will assist the convoys of heavy vehicles from as far away as Tasmania and WA to transport fodders and hay to NSW.

Today we've released the Drought Relief Access Permit scheme, waiving the application fee for movements on and off drought affected properties.

I would urge all operators to ensure they complete their application correctly which allows us to prioritise your request.

Finally, with extra trucks on the road please remember to take care, whether you're driving a truck or light vehicle.

Regards,  
**Sal Petrocchio**  
CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

## Permit fees waived for drought-affected areas

The NHVR has agreed to waive access fees for heavy vehicles operating to and from drought-affected properties.

NHVR's Manager Network Access Roger Garcia said the Drought Relief Access Permit scheme would save operators \$73 per permit and support farmers moving stock or produce to and from drought-declared properties.

"Due to the extent of the drought in NSW as well as large parts of Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, the NHVR has looked at ways we could assist primary producers," Roger said.

"We've worked with road managers to prioritise more than 100 access permits over the past week. From today we'll be waiving the permit fees as an additional measure to assist."

The NHVR facilitates more than 35,000 access permits a year. Under the Drought

Relief Access Permit Scheme, a heavy vehicle operator would be eligible for the drought exemption if the property they are travelling to or from has been drought-declared.

Roger said the exemption would apply to the transport of fodder freight, water cartage, stock or restocking freight and emergency water infrastructure.

"When applying for a permit through the NHVR Portal, there is a reference field that includes 'Drought Relief Operations,'" he said.

"By including this on a permit application, the NHVR staff can prioritise the application and alert the road managers to its urgency."

The Drought Relief Access Permit scheme is effective Monday 13 August.

For more information go to [www.nhvr.gov.au/drought](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/drought). Other support available to drought affected farmers can be found at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/drought-freight](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/drought-freight).



# Consultation on rear wheel mods takes off

The NHVR has opened consultation on a new modification code to fit non-standard rear wheel components on heavy vehicles.

NHVR Safety and Performance Manager Peter Austin said the new code (D3) would allow certification of modifications to heavy vehicle rear tyres and rims by Approved Vehicle Examiners (AVEs) rather than requiring approval from the NHVR.

"We're continuing to look at ways we can cut red tape and improve the efficiency of vehicle modifications," Peter said.

"We're also asking for feedback on our proposal that a qualified examiner, approved by the state and territory governments is able to approve the changes.

"Once we've considered the feedback, the finalised D3 modification code will be included in *Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6 - Heavy Vehicle Modifications*.

Due to the possibility of overloading components (wheel bearings, axles, brakes, etc) and the complexity of the assessment



required to ensure they remain within safe working limits, the NHVR is proposing that an AVE with a tertiary qualification in mechanical engineering would be the most appropriate to certify this modification type.

The draft D3 modification code and required AVE qualification recommendation will be open for feedback until 25 August.

You can provide feedback by completing the forms on [www.nhvr.gov.au/vsb6](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/vsb6) and submitting it to [VSB6SIWG@nhvr.gov.au](mailto:VSB6SIWG@nhvr.gov.au)

## Have you registered for an upcoming CoR session yet?

The NHVR is holding Chain of Responsibility sessions around the country during August and September. Below are details of upcoming forums. To register for a session, or to see the full calendar, [click here](#). (NOTE: Bendigo and Warragul are sold out, but you can put yourself on a waitlist if you wish to attend.)

Date	State	Location	Time	Venue and address
15 Aug	NT	Darwin	9.30-10.30am	Rydges 15 Maluka Drive, Darwin
16 Aug	NSW	Dubbo	1.30-2.30pm	Dubbo RSL Club, 178 Brisbane St Dubbo
17 Aug	NSW	Wagga Wagga	1.30-2.30pm	Wagga RSL Club, Kincaid St & Dobbs St Wagga
21 Aug	TAS	Brighton	1.30-2.30pm	Brighton Motel Hotel, 141 Brighton Rd Brighton

## Trial for new speed limits in NSW when passing emergency vehicles

A 12-month trial will begin in New South Wales in September for speed limits when passing emergency vehicles with red or blue flashing lights on the side of the road. To find out more go to: <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/slow-down-for-emergency-vehicles/index.html>

A new law has already been passed in Victoria that requires motorists to not exceed 40km/h when passing a stationary or slow moving emergency vehicle, and speed cannot be increased until a safe distance from the scene.

For more information go to: [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/police-and-emergency-vehicles](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/police-and-emergency-vehicles) and <https://youtu.be/sz5eyPIFVnc>

South Australia already has a 25 km/h rule, Western Australia a 40 km/h rule and Canberra has also introduced the 40 km/h rule for emergency vehicles.

Find out more here: <http://mylicence.sa.gov.au/road-rules/drive25>

<https://www.rsc.wa.gov.au/Rules-Penalties/Browse/Emergency-Vehicles>



## Portal tips

**When applying for a permit make sure you carefully search the configurations to find the one that best reflects your vehicle.**

Ensure the information you input, such as length and axle spacing, is accurate so that your permit is processed in a timely manner.

Incorrect information may result in delays in processing your permit, as well as extra costs.

**When applying for a new application, renewal or amendment (after checking your notices and gazettes), select 'Access Permits' and then select 'Application Tracker'.** From here you will be able to lodge, renew and amend your permits, along with a history of your previous permits. Happy lodging!

You can access the Portal [here](#).



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