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Council engineers attend first NHVR access seminar in Brisbane

Over 70 people from a range of city, regional and rural councils across Australia attended the NHVR's first Council Engineers' Heavy Vehicle Access Seminar at NHVR headquarters in Brisbane on 22 and 23 October.

Stakeholder Specialist Tim Hansen said the two-day event included presentations from NHVR and industry experts, as well as a field trip to a crane, PBS and an OSOM operator in a bid to help councils understand the challenges faced by heavy vehicle operators and how we can all work together to better manage the freight task.

"We want to inform and empower council engineers in their roles as road managers to expand their networks and work with industry to improve productivity and safety in their local freight tasks," Tim said.

"The event was an overwhelming success, with engineers coming from as far as Tatiara and the Yorke Peninsula in South Australia to Thargomindah and the Whitsundays in Queensland.

"We had some fantastic discussions and received some really positive feedback.

Here are some comments from attendees:

Julie Stewart from Bulloo QLD said:

"I've learnt a lot and now feel a lot more comfortable with permits."

It's worth noting that Julie is from Thargomindah, which is further from Brisbane than Sydney!

Richard Jane from Gwydir Council NSW said:
"An excellent two days. The visits to industry in particular were extremely valuable."

Tim added that since the event, some councils have already taken actions to



improve their road networks, including nominating more pre-approved routes and establishing working groups to liaise with local industry representatives.

"A range of councils showcased efforts they've already made to better manage their

freight task, such as Walcha and Moira Shire Councils and City of Gold Coast Council, all of whom provided some great examples and inspiration," added Tim.



Moira Shire Council improves B-double access for harvest

A need for more efficient movement of commodities during harvest season was the impetus for Moira Shire Council's decision to grant increased access for B-doubles within its road network.

After initial discussions with NHVR, local transport operators and GrainCorp in September this year, Council developed a scheme to allow B-double trucks to carry commodities to and from rural properties.

The decision eliminated the need for operators to apply and obtain a permit from the NHVR each time they planned to travel on a rural road.

According to NHVR Stakeholder Specialist Simone Reinertsen who initiated the negotiations, a list of roads was

initially identified by the Livestock & Rural Transporters Assoc of Victoria (LRTAV).

"The LRTAV approached us with a list of roads for consideration," Simone said.

"This list included local farm roads, allowing primary producers more efficient access for commodities on and off their properties, as well as access to grain receival sites.

"A priority list was identified and the Shire commenced a desktop assessment of the roads. Thirteen roads that were previously available under permit were then moved to pre-approval.

"It was finally decided by September this year that Gazettal was the preferred approach, thus removing the need for operators to apply for permits, subject to conditions.

"By October 2017 the team at Moira Shire Council, including the CEO, determined that they'd be interested in offering a 'Harvest Network' from October to April each year and would work with the NHVR to achieve this," added Simone.

"This is a fantastic outcome for operators, primary producers and the local community.

"It's a great example of what can happen when councils are prepared to work with industry to develop common sense strategies for their local circumstances.

"I'm glad the NHVR was able to contribute and play a part in this welcome development," she added.

Find the VicRoads B-double network map [here](#).



Left to right: Winton Shire Council members Joel Mann, Deputy Mayor Shane Mann, NHVR Stakeholder Specialist Jason Stewart, Mayor Gavin Baskett and Travis Harbour

NHVR gets the word out at annual local government conference

NHVR had another opportunity recently to engage with local road managers at the annual Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) annual conference from 29 to 31 October at the Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre.

According to NHVR's Stakeholder Specialist Jason Stewart, the event is always a great opportunity to inform councils about important NHVR initiatives such as education around new Chain of Responsibility laws, and the advantages of increased access for heavy vehicle operators.

"Considering that our local road managers play an important part in most first and

last mile freight activities, this was a great opportunity to engage with representatives from all over the state," Jason said.

"We had a productive time discussing local access issues as well as a wide range of other important issues.

"Over the three days we had some great discussions on optimising the local freight corridors.

"I'm really looking forward to continuing those discussions into the future.

"Councils are increasingly beginning to see how increased access benefits industry and their local communities," he added.

Portal enhancement project webinar

The NHVR is offering additional training for customers and road managers in the NHVR Portal.

Join us for a webinar session on Friday 6 December at 11:30 (EST) to learn about the NHVR Portal Enhancement release for December. The webinar will cover:

- assisted permits
- performance reports
- customer reference (Registration Module)
- other features in this release.

Road managers and operators can register their interest by clicking [here](#).

