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Mr Jeremy Nott
Inquiry Manager, National Transport Regulatory Reform
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Mr Nott

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper on National Transport Regulatory Reform. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) welcomes the Productivity Commission review as a key opportunity to critically evaluate the performance of national reform to date and to identify opportunities to unlock further necessary reforms for the national transport task.

Since the review was announced in May this year, the NHVR has worked extensively with the Productivity Commission to provide a detailed and thorough understanding of the operations of the NHVR, while also identifying key challenges and opportunities. This has included a number of meetings and interviews with staff across NHVR business units and the Executive Leadership Team. We are also continuing to source and provide the Productivity Commission with all relevant data and information through our internal Data Analytics Centre of Excellence.

Further to this initial information and data sharing phase, we were also pleased to host representatives of the Productivity Commission at our recent joint industry and government workshop; in which the Productivity Commission had the opportunity to hear first-hand some of the key frustrations that exist with the current law and potential opportunities to improve it.

With this significant review being undertaken simultaneously with the review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law, the NHVR believes we have a collective responsibility to embrace this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity and deliver a stronger and more flexible platform to achieve significant safety and productivity gains.

The NHVR's number one priority is the safety of the heavy vehicle industry and the Australian community. We believe a safer industry is a more productive one and that unsafe business practices improperly distort the market for transport services. At a high level, the key areas the NHVR wants to see addressed include:

1. Empowering industry and the supply chain to identify and better manage safety risks as well as acknowledging the efforts in doing so;
2. Ensuring safety risks are managed in a way that reflects the needs of the person behind the wheel, not administrative processes; and
3. Providing a modern and responsive access regime that recognises the benefits of safer and more productive vehicles and removes permits and delays.

The NHVR looks forward to contributing further towards the Productivity Commission's consideration of future reforms as the review progresses.

It is important to note that the work of the NHVR is reliant on the countless contributions and partnerships with both industry and government agencies. We do not work in isolation, but are one component of a complex national picture.

It is my sincere hope that through this review, the NHVR has the ability to better operate as a modern regulator that can adapt quickly to facilitate necessary change in line with the fast paced improvements being adopted by the heavy vehicle industry and its customers.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Pickering
A/Chief Executive Officer