

Temporary and Unscheduled Detours and Road Closures

Road Closure versus Network Amendments

Route and network changes under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) are classified differently to actual road closures and detours under the road rules.

Route and network changes are amended on the legally approved networks.

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

A road closure or detour affects all vehicles and takes precedence over a HVNL route declaration.

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.

Legally approved networks are not updated for road works as these are able to be managed via appropriately signed detours.

Effect on Declared Heavy Vehicle Route when Road is Closed or Detoured

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

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 manager's 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.

Consultation Requirements

Road Managers are not obliged to inform NHVR of road closures or detours.

Road Managers should discuss detours with their road authority and other road managers affected by the detour.

More Information on Traffic Management

Austrroads developed and released a [Guide to Traffic Management](#) that was adopted by all road agencies in Australia.

Other information

Refer to the NHVR's pre-approval [information sheet](#).

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

For more information:

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Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

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