



Communiqué

NHVR AGRICULTURE Industry Operators Group

Tuesday 10 February 2015

The 2nd meeting of the Agricultural Industry Operators Group was held in Brisbane. The Agricultural Industry Operators Group is the peak reference group representing the interests of the agricultural industry. It comprises representation from peak bodies and industry operators across the Australian agriculture industry, and senior members of the NHVR.

NHVR STRUCTURE

The new structure of the NHVR was summarised with the new functional areas outlined in detail with a core focus being to provide consistency and transparency in the facilitation and regulation activities.

ACCESS – PERMITS

NHVR is targeting consistency across Australia, and had visited WA to seek out any similarities that WA can bring to the National System. An outline of the permits issued by the NHVR was raised and with noticeable improvement in turnaround times for cross border operations. Noting some operators are not coming to the NHVR for cross border operations and are still applying to states as border to border moves.

A flow chart was discussed for Queensland only at this point around harvesting and picking for different Queensland regions throughout the year and for other States to prepare a similar chart, so the peak main times for these activities, so when activity is and the need for permits/access most needed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An overview of the SA project was given the project is looking at refining needs and cutting costs and time needed to move from farm to port. The project received 700 respondents to an online survey. Local Government, Council size and current laws are causing restrictions especially on new equipment; GML/HML issues, information re local roads, RAA (SA automobile Association) liaising and looking at a common rego date, for equipment movements and 12 months currency. Road Train access beyond certain points causing problems cattle from NT to lower in SA, GML to HML a problem with some works needed in this space, SA more restrictive around movement of equipment.

NOTICES/EXEMPTIONS

Easter movement of cotton equipment was discussed; TMR draft notices and exemptions were discussed. It was highlighted that Friday and Monday of Easter holidays would be not suitable for movement due to traffic density, leading up to and at end Easter period; but Saturday and Sunday would be all right as everyone was at their destinations and traffic densities would be low and permission to have movements on these days would be sought, as with many crops timing because of weather and other factors can be crucial.

The movement of OSOM was discussed and it was highlighted that some councils are doing extremely well while others have yet to embrace the national system. The points around the need for Local Governments to adopt a risk approach to issuing permits was highlighted and fully accepted by the NHVR. This issue of Risk was a part of the AccessCONNECT Program that the NHVR has undertaken.

AccessCONNECT Program

The NHVR through the AccessCONNECT Program is looking to providing industry with a portal for industry to track the progress of their permits the NHVR is seeking sections of industry to be part of a trail for this project. The concept has been received positively with industry to date and has been offered to other sectors of Industry.

OUTPUTS

The IOG agreed that as a follow up from this meeting the following outcomes would be addressed:

- Resend Case Studies and Vehicle Types for Harvesting. Assigned to AG Force
- Obtain a copy of the SA outcomes of survey and provide feedback re inconsistencies. Assigned to NHVR
- Signed Notice – Exemption Cotton. Assigned to CEO, NHVR. Completed by 17/02/2015

MEMBERSHIP

This communiqué highlights key issues from the October 2014 meeting. This meeting was attended by representatives from industry operators from AGForce, NSW FF, PPSA, PCA, Cotton Growers, Ag Force Grains, CEO NHVR, and NHVR staff representing the areas of Engagement and Partnerships, Industry Engagement, Principal Engineer -Access, and AccessCONNECT .