

# Communique

## Livestock Industry Operators Group

**The inaugural meeting of the Livestock Industry Operators Group was held on 14 May, 2015 in Brisbane.**

The Livestock Industry Operators Group is a reference group for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) which comprises industry operators from the Australian Livestock Industry and the Executive Director Engagement & Partnerships NHVR and the Industry Engagement Manager NHVR.

This communique highlights key issues from the May 2015 meeting was attended by Mat Munro, Graeme Hoare, Jock Carter, Wade Lewis, David Scott, David Smith, John Beer, Grant Robins, Wade Lewis, the Executive Director Engagement & Partnerships NHVR and the Industry Engagement Manager NHVR.

At this meeting, the IOG discussed and considered a number of issues including: the Chain of Responsibility and its implications for the livestock transport industry, an overview and progress update on the Access Connect Project; go to the agenda – the group also discussed and prioritised of key issues concerning the livestock transport industry.

### **COR NHVR overview**

Manager Chain of Responsibility, Michael Crelin presented to the group on the issue of effluent in the livestock transport industry. The discussions identified how effluent relates to on road enforcement is a whole of industry issue with drivers, feedlots, Infrastructure and farmers all part of the solution to provide a safer environment for the road user. This matter was discussed in detail with an outcome of a separate meeting to be held to discuss in greater detail the concern of industry that this is a COR matter.

The wider issue of COR was discussed and the following points highlighted:

- for effective change to happen the NHVR is reliant on the information given to them
- it is important to collectively enhance the pressure on continuous offenders within the industry
- proof of an offence is necessary before it is possible to investigate the supply chain.

Currently NHVR is preparing for a COR education program with a focus of ensuring that supply chain partners are educated about the roles and responsibilities within the chain.

### **Access Connect**

The meeting discussed the issues that are particular to the livestock industry. The industry like a larger part of the transport industry has concerns around permit processing times considering the short times frames that can be experienced in the livestock transport task.

David Carlisle Project Director for Access Connect informed the group on the Remediation Project and advised the project is progressively improving since it first started. Focus is on getting permit times reduced, the amount of permits reduced, with more pre-approved/opened roads available across the network.

A new system is being released in the form of a dashboard that allows the NHVR to find where the issues lie. It will identify high volume permits by certain councils/jurisdictions as well as identify long permit time frames. It is NHVR's intention that some Councils will be given access to this dashboard

The NHVR is working in collaboration with Jurisdictions and Councils to get a more streamlined system in place.

### **Livestock Industry Fatigue Management Template**

A draft has been sent to the ALRTA and a meeting is set with operators on 28th May to work through the template.

### **Livestock Key Issues Discussion**

The group highlighted a range of issues facing the industry at present. From the list, the group then identify the key issues to be focused on which would form the basis of an action plan from the group.

- ✓ Effluent and Fatigue – education
- ✓ COR – resolving enforcement for effluent related load restraint offences
- ✓ Access (National)
  - Farm gate
  - NHVR Law
  - Access
  - Vehicle type
- ✓ AFM Fatigue template
- ✓ 160km exemption

The IOG believed the development of educational videos covering some of the above topics would be helpful in raising awareness across industry.