

Communique

Livestock Industry Operators Group

21 April, 2016

Meeting No 3 was held at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulators (NHVR) Offices, Gasworks, Skyring Terrace, 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 senior members of the NHVR.

This communique highlights key issues from the April 2016 meeting and was attended by David Scott, David Smith, Stephen Marley, Kevin Keenan, Graham Howell, Grant Robbins, Louise Bilato, Linley Miners, Graeme Hoare, Matt Munro, John Beer, Karen Vohland, Executive Director Engagement & Partnerships NHVR, Daniel Elkins, Director Safety NHVR, Simone Reinertsen, Stakeholder Specialist, NHVR.

At this meeting, the IOG discussed and considered a number of issues and including updates on: AccessCONNECT Customer Portal; Access/permits; NHVAS and Chain of Responsibility.

AccessCONNECT

David Carlisle (Executive Director – AccesCONNECT Program) provided a status report on the Program of work. A summary of the key points discussed have been provided below:

- The first stage in the new *NHVR Online Permit System – Customer Portal* is being progressively rolled out from 3 May 2016 to a small group of customers that regularly apply for access permits. After this, the NHVR will expand the rollout to more customers over the coming months before opening it up to all customers later in the year.
- Prior to this release of the new Customer Portal, the NHVR undertook focus groups with customers, local, state, territory and Australian government representatives, as well as extensive system and user acceptance testing. This staged release approach will allow the NHVR to manage the transition for customers and make necessary improvements to the system before full release. Feedback received confirmed that the solution makes applying for access permits more efficient for customers.
- Work has continued on enhancements to the Journey Planner (GIS) product, with a new prototype product developed and internal testing has now commenced. This will be made available in the coming months after final development and testing has occurred.
- The Program is also finalising significant procurement activities as well as the implementation approach, commencing design and development work from early June 2016.

John Barry (Technical Lead – AccesCONNECT Program) provided a live demonstration to the group on the attributes of the new Customer Portal which is being progressively rolled out from early May 2016, and the group provided a number of positive comments on the progress made with the new system.

The group was also advised that if members were interested in being involved in the early release activities for the Customer Portal, and they would potentially be making an Access permit

application during the month of May or June 2016 to the NHVR, to advise Karen Vohland (chair) and the Program will make the appropriate arrangements.

Access update

Peter Caprioli, Director Access outlined for the group the work being undertaken with regard to National Notices for Oversize/Overmass, PBS Truck and Dog and the Special Purpose Vehicles. All three of the notices are scheduled to be published in the coming weeks.

Update TMR Project S10 Livestock Loading Code Review

Les Bruza, Chief Engineer provided an update on the TMR Project S10 Livestock Loading Code Review.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads' Transport Regulation Branch (TRB) is undertaking a review of the alternate compliance scheme Guideline for Livestock Loading in Queensland, Form 3 (the Scheme) and the Queensland Concessional Livestock Loading – Vehicle Rating (S10) (Code S10) to provide practical and enforceable operational limits for Queensland's livestock transport industry. Transport concessions apply in Queensland for livestock transport operators working under the Scheme. Vehicles used under the Scheme must comply with the Code S10 which has been operating in Queensland since the mid-1990s and was developed to manage volumetric loading of livestock for transport by road.

NHVR is represented on the Review Reference Group and the first meeting was held in April 2016. Around 188 vehicles were intercepted during January and February as part of TMR's data collection. Intercepts were from across Queensland and most of the vehicles weighed were at or close to HML limits.

TMR proposed a number of options for consideration:

1. Do nothing – leave the current scheme unchanged;
2. Amend the Code S10 and/or Form 3;
3. Base the Scheme on specific gross masses;
4. Other – based on suggested options, such as the Grain Scheme.

NHVR expressed the view that any options considered should not be to the detriment of the current scheme benefits. It is anticipated that the outcomes from this review will contribute to the development of an Options Paper by end June 2016 followed by senior executive and Ministerial consideration.

NHVAS update

Darrin Rasmussen, Manager Accreditation provided an update with regard to NHVR's Accreditation Scheme.

- New record keeping requirements for Mass Management – refer factsheet <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/news/2016/03/03/nhvr-cuts-red-tape-for-nhvas>
- Auditor registration for NHVAS by 1 July 2016 and that the next Auditor technical training will be conducted in Brisbane on 18 and 19 May 2016, this was driven by the Responsible Ministers as part of the accelerated NHVAS Review to ensure robust auditing of the operator systems.
 - There was some discussion across the group around auditing i.e. that they don't actually audit the vehicles, mentioned that the random on-road inspections by Authorised Officers check vehicle condition.
 - Currently the audits are system audits, Darrin also mentioned the NHVR are currently reviewing the standards for Mass, Maintenance and BFM.

- The current NHVAS label is under review and a design has been developed, smaller than the current vehicle label
- Fuel Tax rebate was mentioned as the NHVAS is no longer included, informed that the NHVR had not been advised and would follow this one up with DIRD (Matthew Squire).
- Sal also mentioned training for NHVAS operators / Managers might be beneficial.

COR NHVR overview

Michael Crellin, Manager Chain of Responsibility discussed the CoR Strategic Vision and where/how the NHVR wants to accelerate investigator and prosecutor capability through frameworks, procedures and training, along with plans for industry education. He also discussed the Codes of Practice developments and introduction of the new Guideline being released for a 1 July effective date.

General business

There was some discussion around the NSW Livestock Loading Scheme. It was noted that the issue would be discussed at the Livestock Council meeting the following day.

The matter of Route Assessment Guidelines was also raised around concerns with local council's approach to the interpretation of the guidelines. General discussion suggested that the issue of council interpretation was a matter that would need to be dealt with on a case by case basis within each council. It was pointed out that the Guidelines were an Austroads product.

It was noted that the CEO ALATRA would write to Peter Caprioli, Director Access and Matt Elischer (NHVR's Austroads representative) with a cc to Karen Vohland, Executive Director Engagement and Partnerships to raise the issue with Austroads.

The ALRTA Ramps Guideline was raised by John Beer and discussions took place with regard to what the NHVR could do to assist ALRTA get traction for its broad adoption. However, the NHVR are unable to take any action through enforcement as there are no provisions under chain of responsibility that provide NHVR with powers to deal with work carried out for the loading and unloading of livestock. It is a WH&S issue that needs to be addressed by WorkSafe Australia.

Meeting closed 4.00pm

Date for next meeting TBA.