

Oversize Overmass Industry Operations Group Communique

The fourth meeting of this meeting was held at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) office, Gasworks in Newstead, in Brisbane on 28 June 2016.

The Industry Operations Group (IOG) is a key reference group for the NHVR. It comprises high level representatives from industry operators across the heavy vehicle Oversize Overmass (OSOM) industry and senior members of the NHVR.

This communique highlights key issues from the June 2016 meeting. This meeting was attended by CEO of NHVR, Director Access NHVR, Manager Industry Stakeholder Engagement NHVR, Stakeholder Specialist (VIC, TAS, SA) NHVR, Technical Specialist Access Strategy & Policy NHVR and representatives from industry operators including Queensland Trucking Association (QTA), Russell Transport, L.Arthur Transport, Daracon Group and an apology was Doolans Haulage McAleese Transport Victoria was invited to discuss issues in reference to OSOM but declined the invite

At this meeting the IOG discussed and considered a number of issues including the coverage of public consultation feedback, an overview of harmonization, review the purpose of this group, a demonstration of the AccessCONNECT portal and the replacement of Journey Planner.

John Gilbert, Manager Industry Stakeholder Engagement NHVR officially opened the forum, welcoming the committee with introductions made around the table. This followed an overview of the agenda items.

Public Consultation Feedback

There was a presentation and general discussion with regard to the public consultation of the OSOM Notice. Key points included:

- a focus on reducing the permit based schemes and identify and understand the gaps
- benefits include less permits, flexibility, increased transparency
- amendments will be in line with the harmonization strategy to avoid notices release too frequently
- option of consultation with manufacturers to address issues of variances in size and weight.
- The rollout of Phase 1 will include publishing maps and an ongoing engagement with road managers. Information sheets and a summary of the state limits will be published at the same time of the notice and notice amendment.

It was noted that ACT are yet to participate in the OSOM Notice and Tasmania are operating under an extensive and flexible state Notice that was implemented in November 2015.

A lot of feedback has been coming through from road managers, jurisdictions and the heavy vehicle industry about the OSOM Notice. The NHVR received 22 responses from across all the states, mostly from industry operators. Key issues identified:

- lack of harmonisation between the states
- the complexity of the document
- size of the networks
- errors and typos

Harmonisation

The next step for the NHVR is to have one harmonised approach for the heavy vehicle industry. This will be conducted in a phased approach. Discussions will be had with reference groups and industry group and the role of the IOG will need to be determined. There is a level of inconsistency currently with some will be easily addressed where other aspects will take some time to harmonize between the states.

OSOM Group

The IOG agreed this meeting is to be held bi-annual to satisfy the original purpose of this group. The OSOM IOG intention is to discuss the key issues at a national level. The IOG have agreed to open up the meeting to representatives from jurisdictions, when discussing issues they should have input. Nominations are also welcome to ensure greater coverage of the OSOM industry.

AccessCONNECT

The IOG received a demonstration of the AccessCONNECT customer portal. NHVR are currently trialing with a number of industry operators and preparing for the system to go live in 5 weeks.

Route Planner

The IOG received a demonstration of Route Planner. The NHVR are moving towards a trial of route planner. The more data is shared between jurisdiction and operators, the more beneficial this tool will be for all users. Key discussion points as follows:

- the viability of uploading the route to a gps and uploading the route from a gps to the planner
- sharing the commonly used routes and traffic management plans
- work with the truck specifications to assist with planning the route on the network and identifying where a permit is required

Other Business

On 21 June 2016 NHVR launched a new video to further assist local government to continue to improve the productivity and safety of the heavy vehicle industry. The NHVR is using the video to have a much more robust discussion with local government about the benefits that come from having more Performance-Based Standards (PBS) high productivity heavy vehicles operating on our road networks. By working with the NHVR to expand non-permit networks for high-performance vehicles, councils are reducing the administrative burden for themselves and industry.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date and location was undecided however, is likely to take place in the second half of 2016. The agenda is also yet to be confirmed.