NHVR Oversize Over Mass (OSOM) Industry Operators Group (IOG) Communique’

7 February 2017

The 6th meeting of the OSOM IOG was held at the NHVR offices, Brisbane on Tuesday, 7 February 2017.

The OSOM IOG is a key group of industry representatives for the NHVR. It comprises representatives across the heavy vehicle industry in the OSOM sector, the CEO NHVR and senior members of the NHVR.

Manager Stakeholder Relations NHVR officially opened the meeting, welcoming members with introductions made around the table. Julie Russell Chaired the IOG. The following communique’ outlines the key points discussed.

Membership and administration
Manager Stakeholder Relations NHVR re-raised membership of the group, encouraging wider representation to address industry wide issues and to give broader purpose to the group.

An overview was provided on the Engagement Specialist roles within the NHVR. To improve access for industry, the officers in these roles are out talking with and listening to industry with the main aim of connecting industry with councils.

The NHVR advised Road Manager Forums have recently been held, with the next scheduled on 7 March in western NSW. The NHVR is asking for OSOM operators in Forbes to attend and to discuss issues regarding access. The NHVR encouraged industry to contact Tim Hansen who can coordinate discussions with councils.

Commonwealth Grant Funding for Road Safety Initiatives
The NHVR informed members of the consultation period for the Commonwealth Grant Funding for Road Safety Initiatives. Commonwealth funding is for the amount of $3.883M per year for four years including 2016/17.

The NHVR will formally begin consultation with industry and jurisdictions on 16 February. An emphasis on sector-wide ideas was relayed; and submissions which can be implemented now (past concept stage).

Pilots and Escorts Review Update
The NHVR reminded industry to formally write to the NHVR with respect to Pilots and Escorts informing the NHVR what issues are required to be addressed and what are the priority components.

Industry raised the issue of harmonisation of pilots, in particular with the number of pilots required across the states.

The NHVR advised that Defence has also raised cross border issues.

The NHVR referred to the Austroads Harmonisation of Pilot and Escort Vehicle Driver Requirements: Stage 2 project. The NHVR will work to prioritise industry concerns once a formal letter outlining its priority in this space is received from industry via the OSOM IOG Chair.

Development of National Mass Assessment Procedures for OSOM Vehicles
The NHVR provided an introduction into the Austroads led project Development of National Mass Assessment Procedures for OSOM Vehicles; outlining the scope, schedule; and outcomes. Julie Russell of Russell Transport advised Russell Transport is involved in the trial.
Extend Low Loader 25 to 26m Gazette / Class 1 Load Carrying Dimension Exemption Notice
The NHVR advised the aim of the low loader gazette notice was to bring Queensland in line with the rest of Australia (26m long/3.5m wide). This notice has been released.

Industry raised the interpretation and understanding of the Class 1 Load Carrying Dimension Exemption Notice, in particular in Victoria with regard to the definition of a class 1 vehicle and stipulating the height of a low loader trailer as 1m or less.

The NHVR advised it will go back and look at improvements to information sheets and check with the OSOM IOG before releasing any changes.

AccessCONNECT Update on Customer Portal and Road Manager Portal
The Forum was provided with an update on the Customer and Road Manager Portal. The Road Manager Portal is at the final end of the development cycle.

Parts of industry expressed usability challenges. The NHVR will be providing support and tutorials on the new system to assist industry. Training is being held in Victoria. NHVR offered industry the opportunity of training in NSW and Queensland, confirming portal training in Queensland on 1 March. Industry to advise NHVR of NSW member’s interest.

A presentation of the Road Manager Portal was shared highlighting the benefits of the new functionalities. The NHVR asked industry to provide feedback on the portal.

Industry feedback on use of Customer Portal Vs applications direct with Road Managers
Industry raised the ongoing and outstanding issue with respect to permit timelines; and the service provided by road managers when industry goes direct to road managers vs applying through the NHVR. The argument supporting going direct to road managers is that the road managers know ‘who we are, what we do and how we do it; and where we do it’; and so are approving trips and routes in much shorter periods.

The CEO NHVR asked industry to write formally to the NHVR to express these issues and identify bottlenecks. The CEO NHVR also asked industry to discuss these trips and routes with road managers so that the NHVR can then work with road managers to arrange pre-approvals. The NHVR already has a standard form and request to facilitate these requests with road managers as a solution.

The NHVR is asking commitment from jurisdictions and ministers to minimum standards of performance for permit turnaround timeframes.

Current Issues Industry face
The OSOM Chair raised issue with regard to re-applying for permits already issued for the sake of re-dating. The NHVR asked the Chair to include this issue within the letter to the NHVR on bottlenecks and other concerns.

The OSOM Chair raised issues with regard to delays in permits and not being provided explanations from road managers for non-consent. The OSOM Chair noted they can get information from the road manager (e.g. an “N” number) to enable continuation of the planning process with other functions; police booking. However, the portal only provides the permit number once all road managers have approved; therefore planning and booking of others is delayed also. This issue is to be raised also in the letter to the NHVR.

Industry raised issue of ‘Drake’ trailer (5 rows of 8) that are built in Queensland and used in NSW, but are not recognised in Queensland.
Manager Stakeholder Relations NHVR suggested the OSOM Chair attend Road Manager Forums to help get across the points and challenges industry are facing.

**Other business**

Industry and the NHVR discussed the future direction of this group including the need for wider participation.

The OSOM Chair and members discussed the IOG moving forward and a better industry focus. Agreement reached to have industry agenda items at the top of the agenda.

Action: A link to the previous Communique’ will be provided along with the agenda prior to each meeting to enable members to revisit actions and notes from the previous meeting.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for approximately September 2017.

**Actions**

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<tr>
<th>Ref #</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Industry to advise the NHVR if they wish for training in the Customer Portal in NSW</td>
<td>NSW OSOM IOG Rep</td>
<td>By next meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Industry to formally write to the NHVR with respect to timelines and the service provided by road managers when industry go direct to road managers vs applying through the NHVR</td>
<td>OSOM IOG Chair</td>
<td>10 March 2017</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chair IOG to formally write to the NHVR with respect to Pilots and Escorts with a support letter from Jack Brooks</td>
<td>OSOM IOG Chair</td>
<td>10 March 2017</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The NHVR to look into improving and updating Information Sheet/s defining a Class 1 vehicles and referring to conditions in notices and check with the OSOM IOG before releasing any changes</td>
<td>NHVR</td>
<td>By next meeting</td>
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