

Communique

Fourth meeting of the Industry Operations Group – 26 February, 2015 - Canberra

The Industry Operations Group is a key reference group for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator it comprises high level representation from peak bodies across the heavy vehicle industry, the CEO and senior members of the NHVR.

This communique highlights key issues from the February 2015 meeting. This meeting was attended by the CEO NHVR, Executive Director Engagement and Partnerships NHVR, Industry Engagement Manager NHVR and representatives from peak bodies including ALC, ALRTA, ATA, CVIAA, NatRoad, QTA, VTA, SARTA and Chairs of the OSOM IOG, and Crane IOG. Senior Officials from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the NTC were also in attendance.

At this meeting, the IOG discussed and considered a number of issues including: the role and function of the group; the recent meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss; establishment of a new senior officials group, updates from the recent sector specific operations groups.

Revised role and function

The IOG was originally established to facilitate discussion between the NHVR and Peak Industry bodies to highlight and resolve keystone operational issues following the implementation of the National Heavy Vehicle Law. One year on, with the established sector specific operations groups and a strengthened Executive Leadership team for the NHVR, mechanisms are now in place to effectively address routine operational matters.

These changes have created the opportunity for the IOG to now take a more strategic longer-term view, while continuing with oversight of the operators groups. Reflective of this new emphasis, the name of the group will change to the Industry Reference Forum; membership will continue to be the current high level representation and foster the spirit of a national approach. Key focus areas to include:

- Safety and productivity
- Regulatory efficiency and legal
- Regulatory compliance
- Engagement, consultation and education

A new Terms of Reference will be developed reflective the above and also the intent of the August 2011 COAG agreement.

The NHVR CEO has proposed the concept of a Co-Chair. The group is considering this request and will provide feedback in due course.

Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister

On February 18, IOG representatives met with Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss. The meeting was positive with the Deputy Prime Minister reinforcing his commitment to National Heavy Vehicle Law, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and to industry. The DPM heard that there were issues between the jurisdictions and the regulator. Other topics raised included tackling the red tape issues, the support for the one stop shop approach, National Licensing and Registration and the appointment of an operator to the NHVR board.

His office was supportive of the value of the meeting and keen to meet again. NHVR will continue to liaise with the DPM's office to facilitate.

Establishment of new Senior Officials Group

The CEO of the NHVR has written to each Deputy Director General for Transport Policy in the Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, to develop a group to discuss broader multi-jurisdictional operational policy matters. The aim is to hold the meeting prior to a TISOC or Ministerial Council meeting and will advise the group when the first meeting is scheduled. The NHVR CEO clarified that the NHVR is accountable to shareholding Ministers rather than just a single Minister.

Updates from Sector Specific Operations Groups meetings

- **Over size, Over Mass**

The third over size, over mass operations group meeting was held in Brisbane on February 12. Main points discussed were issues around permitting, the pinch points between state/local jurisdictions and the NHVR and the impact it is having on industry. The groups suggested that Interim powers be given to NHVR to reduce the time jurisdictions have to approve permits.

- **Crane**

Industry is gaining confidence in NHVR. The NHVR are seeking individual operators to participate in pilots to identify a national scheme for crane classes; then go forward with an industry pilot. NHVR is looking to discuss the option of slowly bringing some of the permitting responsibilities back to the NHVR. The crane industry expressed they would like to do this in a staged manner with a couple of individual companies at a time

NHVR would like to focus on what some local governments and some jurisdictions have been doing right and then proactively model positive behaviour and better approaches. There was a general discussion about suitable performance indicators and learnings with regard to areas to focus around what to address and taking a strategic approach to identifying opportunities for 'quick wins'.

160km Diary exemption for Primary Producers

The group discussed the recent 160km exemption and agreed that as a guiding principal when considering exemptions, due regard should be given to the wider benefits, application or operation of the same change across other sectors.

Other business

- **Jurisdictional interpretation of elements of the law.**

Enforcement guideline – internal process to develop solutions to the problem

- **PBS issues**

General discussion with regard to the quality of the material being provided for assessment. The meeting noted the need to lift the level of performance standards in the PBS assessors' field, moving to similar framework as the auditor's standards. The meeting noted problems around the jurisdictional inconsistencies of how and when PBS is being applied.

Industry has called for a review of the PBS and how it relates to gaining access to the network. NHVR has requested that the Industry Associations write to the NHVR to formally progress this issue.

Note: A number of papers were provided to the NHVR for inclusion as agenda items for this meeting, however it was agreed that the NHVR responses to these papers would be sent to the group out of session following this meeting. These will be provided separate to this communique.

Sal Petrocchio
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