

Industry Reference Forum Communique

7 September, 2015

The sixth meeting of this forum was held at the CVIAQ offices at Seventeen Mile Rocks, in Brisbane on 7 September, 2015.

The Industry Reference Forum 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 points from the September 2015 meeting. This meeting was attended by senior NHVR Executives including the CEO, Executive Director Engagement and Partnerships, Manager Industry and Stakeholder Engagement, Executive Director, Productivity and Safety, Executive Director, Regulatory Compliance, Directory Strategy and also representatives from peak bodies including ALC, ALRTA, ATA, CVIAQ, NatRoad, QTA, VTA, SARTA and Freight NSW, representatives from the OSOM IOG and Crane IOG, and Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development also attended.

At this meeting, the IRF discussed and considered a number of matters including the NHVR's Forward Work Program, TISOC information, the updated delivery model for fatigue units, NHVR Heavy Vehicle Safety, NHVR Compliance and Enforcement.

CVIAQ change to Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia

CVIAQ gave a briefing to the meeting around the change of CVIAQ to Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia. Heavy Vehicle Australia will aim to be the national body for manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. The change will still require support from its membership.

NHVR update

The CEO of the NHVR gave the meeting an overview. The NHVR is now fully established with industry communicating good outcomes from the NHVR. Industry was thanked for their continued support. The level of jurisdiction support was improving and with the NHVR Engagement and Partnership team now in place and engaging with local government we are seeing improvements in response times and understanding from across the local government sector.

There is now a clearer understanding of policy and operations from the both the NTC and the NHVR.

The recent survey to industry was highlighted as a positive step and industry thought it was a great idea and supported the process.

It was also highlighted that there will still be challenges ahead as we formulate budgets and work towards finalising priority of projects as part of the FWP.

Forward work program

The meeting received a detailed briefing of the NHVR's Forward Work Program (FWP) including aspects around the intent, development and methodology. It was agreed that the conversation with regard to the Forward Work Program would continue. Industry representatives at the meeting would liaise with their members to prioritise the larger list of projects from industry's perspective, including identifying what is missing.

It was agreed that the Industry Operations Groups would be used to identify and bring forward local

productivity issues for consideration for inclusion on the FWP.

The meeting noted it was important for sectorial issues to get visibility either on the FWP or through the program areas as part of the business as usual activities of the regulator.

There was to be a standing agenda item at future meetings to identify the funding for individual projects and the expenditure against projects. Additionally project scoping information relating to the other projects on the FWP will be provided.

TISOC material

The meeting received a briefing on the papers being presented as part of the upcoming TISOC meeting. The papers included the Cost Recovery Study Report, National Registration, Roadworthiness, Access CONNECT Early Market Engagement, Electronic Work Diaries and Written off Heavy Vehicle Register. There was a broad ranging discussion around the above items.

Update – Productivity and Safety

The Executive Director, Productivity and Safety provided a broad update on the key elements of work in this program area.

Policies, procedures and practices – ED is currently reviewing and documenting policies, procedures and practices across the section.

NHVAS Auditor training is currently being rolled out with two training sessions now completed in Melbourne and Adelaide with additional training sessions to follow. The NHVR has received positive feedback from both industry and the auditors themselves.

AFM Transition – Transition is continuing for those undertaking AFM.

Electronic Work Diaries

There was wide-ranging conversation about the EWD project its implications and the three business delivery options being considered.

The ATA, SARTA and NatRoad clearly stated that “they do not support compulsory or mandatory use across the trucking industry of EWD’s”. The VTA stated that they support EWDs but “enforcement needs to be enforceable in the office not on the roadside”.

Fatigue Training Update

Outlined discussions with the skills council about the need for some form of positive identification to confirm the applicant’s submission was bona fide and that the current on line system did not provide the necessary proof.

Performance Based Standards Update

There are concerns with regard to the process to provide broader access for PBS vehicles.

Vehicle standards...

Baseline survey going ahead...

Management and clearance of defects...

Roadworthiness

Outlined the regulators approach to the Roadworthiness project, there was broad ranging discussions from members around industries views on roadworthiness.

Heavy Vehicle operator licensing/Certification

Geoff Casey initiated a conversation with the attendees around the notion of a Heavy Vehicle Operator Licensing/Certification for the industry. The NHVR sees this as first step towards identifying and strengthening safety standards and productivity in a fair and equitable way. This item was discussed in detail with a split industry views as to the pros and cons of such a program. It was agreed that there needed to more discussion and information from the NHVR around the makeup up of such a program.

Compliance and Enforcement Update

Executive Director Tony Kursius outlined the regulators activities in this area including the upcoming Compliance and Enforcement Forum which was scheduled for 11 September in Sydney. Several industry representatives are to provide an update for forum members in the morning session of this meeting.

An over view of the National Compliance Information System and the direction that it was taking to allow the NHVR to have national coverage and for roadside officers to have visibility was provided to the meeting.

It was agreed that updates will be provided on an ongoing basis to the IRF on Compliance and Enforcement matters.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 17 November 2015 in Canberra, to be hosted by the ATA. Meeting times to be proposed to cater for interstate travel requirements and daylight savings.