

Industry Reference Forum – 7 August 2017

Communique

The 12th meeting of the Industry Reference Forum (IRF) was held at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator office, Newstead, Brisbane.

Attendees

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator	Queensland Police Service	Australia Trucking Association
Queensland Trucking Association	Russell Transport	Transport Workers Union
National Farmers Federation	Agforce	Natroad
Heavy Vehicle Industry Association	Crane Industry Council of Australia	South Australia Road Transport Association
National Road Freighters Association	Victorian Transport Association	Australian Logistics Council
Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association		

Apologies

Civil Contractors Federation	Bus Industry Council
Road Freight New South Wales	Australian Local Government Association

Opening

Sal Petrocchio, CEO NHVR opened the forum welcoming members. Nil conflicts of interest were recorded.

NHVR TISOC and Council papers

NHVR papers to be presented at the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) are:

- NHVR Budget for 2018-19 and 2019-20
- Electronic Work Diaries
- Key Freight Route Access – Annual Update

Electronic Work Diaries (EWD) update

TISOC has previously accepted and approved the NHVR to proceed on the proposed model. The NHVR proposed model is outcomes based and solution focused, with an emphasis on identifying the standards. The NHVR is building the EWD Standards based on 23 essential requirements which will provide confidence to industry.

A consistent approach in relation to the interpretation of the rules should cater for the work patterns outside of the norm (those more often observed along the eastern sea board). The technical requirements and challenges are acknowledged. The NHVR focus is on 'does it work and does it work effectively' and whether the devices are equipped appropriately; and manufacturers focus on the technical anomalies.

Load Restraint Guidelines

The amendment proposal from the National Transport Commission (NTC) to legislate the performance standards currently located in Schedule F1 of the Load Restraint Guide to the HVNL was required to facilitate the NTC's project to separate out regulatory and advisory material that is currently co-mingled in the existing guide.

The NHVR advised the desire to ensure that the legislative response did not create a new regulatory burden or fee (through, for example, the requirement for the operator of any vehicle in doubt as to the performance of their existing load restraint solutions to apply for a permit).

Industry Codes of Practice (ICoP)

Seven Notice of Intentions (NoIs) have been received from code developers:

- the NoIs were reviewed by the NHVR, and all seven were advised to proceed and are now in the development stage.
- five funding assistance applications have been received and are currently undergoing assessment.
- a request to extend interim arrangements for current registered Codes is being progressed.

Chain of Responsibility (CoR)

Industry was provided an update on CoR/Safety Industry Awareness activities during phase 1.

Industry were informed on phase 2 activities which will include industry CoR/Safety Education Forums; and tools and guidance material being prepared for delivery in October and November 2017 which will promote the adoption of Safety Management Systems as a way of industry improving safety and meeting their Primary Duty obligations are coming in 2018.

Since April, the NHVR has conducted a highly visible campaign. The NHVR's communication measures are extensive reaching as far and wide as possible across the logistics sector and all parties in the supply chain.

Industry provided feedback relating to the sequencing of messaging, key messages and the reach of CoR forums.

The NHVR is following the approach endorsed by ministers and welcomes the feedback and will continue to spend time working on channels of communication which has evolved and improved.

Industry discussed penalties and potential prosecutions, who they apply to and the share of risk. The NHVR will continue to work with all parties in the supply chain to assist them with obligations and to comply with CoR legislation.

NHVR Portal

The NHVR thanked industry for ongoing support. Progress has been made on the NHVR Portal including the Road Manager Module, Customer Module and Integrated Route Planner.

The NHVR has been providing ongoing support, including additional training sessions requested by industry. On-line tutorials are available on the new system to assist.

Access Updates

Police Escorts during the Commonwealth Games 2018

Temporary variations to escorting arrangements are being put in place in the lead up to, during and after the Commonwealth Games.

Duration of arrangements is 5 March 2018 – 27 April 2018. Industry raised concern over potential for disruptions for heavy vehicle industry due to the period and timeframes. Communication efforts from NHVR and LGAQ were supported.

The NHVR and police explained the purpose and requirements of the arrangements and that the focus is on the safety of the general public and road user. Information sheet will be published on the NHVR website once legal and police consultation is finalised.

National Harmonisation Program (NHP)

The NHP is working on four priority notices:

1. National HML Declaration
2. National Class 2 B-Double Notice
3. National Class 2 Road Train Notice
4. National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Notice

The NHVR is holding a national workshop with jurisdictions on 9 August to discuss draft key positions.

Members raised a number of examples relating to inconsistencies around signage, vehicle definitions; and references to routes. This issue is acknowledged and over time along with cultural change we can all work together in the aim towards a more harmonised approach.

Industry expressed the desire to push the envelope with regard to notices, with the agricultural sector reiterating the importance of a high-level dialogue with the NHVR and ministers.

Police acknowledged the needs of the agricultural industry. Police are open to debate, consideration of relaxations, exemptions or extensions, however expressed its jurisdictional responsibilities and liability implications when it comes to endorsing vehicles that have the potential to present great risk to road users.

The Agricultural Issues Paper will be sent to industry on 10 August for feedback by 22 September.

The NHVR's Common Heavy Freight Vehicle Combinations Chart had over 80,000 hits on the website and has been well-received.

Return of Delegations

The NOSPAG endorsed the return of access permit delegations to the NHVR on 25 October 2016.

Benefits already being realised include the reduction in volume of permits, increase in notices, decrease in burden of administration and volume of related policies.

Key Freight Routes (KFR)

Industry was provided with an overview of the work being done with KFR which feeds into the NHVR's submission to the Commonwealth on the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and also the KFR Annual Update to Council in November via TISOC in September.

The QTA expressed its willingness to assist and work with the NHVR in shaping and leading the conversation in working with jurisdictions for progress in the access space, for example, the bridges program of work.

Other business

ATA's (Australian Trucking Association) Volvo Safety Truck

The ATA has spent its time being opportunistic and in addition to its child safety focus has had good coverage particularly in the areas of increased training, development, and health of drivers.

The ATA is keen to collaborate and continue to get the *ATA's Volvo Safety Truck* on the move.

National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS)

CEO NHVR advised the NHVR is crystallising its thinking with regard to the direction of the NHVAS and will, as promised, share its thoughts when the NHVR's position is more developed. The NHVR supports the development of a master code by industry.

Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiatives (HVSIs)

HVSI projects (12) have been approved and the NHVR is engaging with all recipients with respect to agreements and having them signed.

The next round of consultation for 2018 initiatives will begin at the end of 2017.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for 5 October 2017, however to be confirmed with a potential meeting in Canberra.