

# 2024/25 Statement of Expectations for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

## Purpose

This Statement of Expectations (SOE) outlines the expectations of responsible Ministers for the operations and performance of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) in achieving the objectives of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The NHVR is Australia's regulator for all heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonne Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) in all jurisdictions other than Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The NHVR administers the HVNL and oversees safety, efficiency and productivity of the heavy vehicle industry, serving the needs of Australia. Although the NHVR acts independently and objectively in exercising its powers, it operates in partnership with Commonwealth, State and Territory Government bodies, and is accountable to the responsible Ministers, and the public interest.

The strategic direction in this SOE is to be reflected in the NHVR Corporate Plan 2024-27 and reported on in the NHVR Annual Report 2024-25. This SOE complements various Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), jurisdiction laws and all other service agreements that provide for joint partnerships or statutory obligations for the NHVR.

## Ministers' expectations of the NHVR

- Fulfill duties under the HVNL and relevant state and territory MOUs.
- Work towards minimising regulatory burdens without further cost to community and industry.
- Maintain open, respectful and collaborative relationships and adopt a 'whole of system' perspective in undertaking their duties.
- Be responsive to disaster recovery and emergency response.
- Align plans and operations with National, State and Territory road safety strategies.
- Support priorities agreed to by the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers, and associated delegated committees, including the HVNL reform program.
- Conducts all activities in an efficient, effective, and financially transparent manner.

## Strategic priorities

### To improve safety for all transport users it is expected that the NHVR:

- Makes active attempts to reduce incidents of heavy vehicle crashes that result in death or serious injury.
- Aligns its activities with the priorities of the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030; the accompanying Action Plans of participating jurisdictions; and the HVNL reform program.
- Improves heavy vehicle roadworthiness and operational safety to reduce heavy vehicle crashes and breakdowns.
- Actively attempts to reduce recidivist behaviour including those relating to fatigue management, fitness for duty, off-route travel and over-mass or over-dimension loads.
- Convenes an annual forum for jurisdictions to discuss and promote consistent enforcement practices.

**In embracing innovation and technology to deliver safety and productivity outcomes in transport and transport infrastructure, it is expected that the NHVR:**

- Encourages the adoption of newer and safer heavy vehicles with the latest vehicle safety technologies through NHVR administered schemes, programs and notices to improve safety and productivity.
- Where practical, encourage nationally consistent and harmonised policies that promote the uptake of cleaner, low and zero emission heavy vehicles.
- Supports jurisdictions in encouraging the use of telematics and emerging vehicle safety technologies.
- Ensures that all systems are protected from cyber threats with a particular focus on those systems that contain personal information and data.
- Ensures that investment into ICT systems supports the delivery of dynamic notices through a National Automated Access System (NAAS) based on the Tasmanian Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS).

**To ensure the transport systems support productive and liveable cities and regions it is expected that the NHVR:**

- Supports community amenity, safety and asset management through monitoring and responding to non-compliance by undertaking appropriate enforcement activities when presented sufficient intelligence by Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies.
- Supports community acceptance of heavy vehicle operations through education about the benefits that higher productivity vehicles can provide and raising community awareness on how to safely share the road with heavy vehicles.

**In maximising freight productivity, it is expected that the NHVR:**

- Aligns NHVR programs with the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy as well as freight strategies and action plans of participating jurisdictions.
- Supports improved access management administration and systems and, where appropriate, supports local government road manager decision-making to drive national harmonisation of access.
- Collaborates with Austroads to maximise the benefits of integrating the features of HVAMS and existing jurisdictional asset and access management systems with the NHVR Portal, to support the successful delivery of a seamless NAAS.
- Enhances the Performance Based Standards scheme approvals in line with the HVNL reform program agreed to by the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting.
- Takes a risk-based approach to data driven regulation as per the National Regulatory Model.

**In being collaborative, it is expected that the NHVR:**

- Maintains and enhances arrangements for the collection and sharing of data, information and intelligence with and between relevant government authorities and agencies.
- Engages in meaningful and effective consultation with industry and government stakeholders.
- Provides accurate and timely advice and data to responsible Ministers on significant heavy vehicle safety, compliance and regulatory issues, as requested by a responsible Minister.
- Collaborates with jurisdictions and industry stakeholders regarding the implementation of the HVNL reform program, including non-legislative reform measures.

### **In being responsive to emergencies and disaster recovery, it is expected that the NHVR:**

- Is responsive to Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies to ensure an effective emergency and disaster response and recovery, as per jurisdictional MOUs and service level agreements.
- Cooperates with other enforcement agencies, including Police, Australian Border Force, and Environmental Protection Authorities, for joint operations as required.
- Adheres to arrangements within jurisdictional emergency response and disaster recovery frameworks.

## **Performance measurement**

### **The NHVR's performance will be measured on Strategic priorities, by:**

- Providing six monthly reports through the National Policy and Strategy Group (NPSG) on the NHVR Corporate Plan initiatives and operational activities of promoting public safety including analytics on registration, crash, defect, intercept and infringements data through the Safety Compliance and Regulatory Platform (SCRIP).
- Monitoring performance and providing statistical trends against national performance measures through the Annual Report which incorporates regulatory outcome performance frameworks on:
  - Safety performance.
  - Compliance and enforcement.
  - Productivity including improved connections of key networks (origin to destination) for all heavy vehicles.
  - Sustainability including increasing uptake of cleaner, safer, and more efficient vehicles.
  - Regulatory capability including details of initiatives that reduce red tape and regulatory burdens.

### **The NHVR's performance will be measured on Collaboration, by:**

- Utilising the NPSG as the forum to liaise with participating jurisdictions to:
  - Discuss the process of developing and disseminating performance measures and Corporate Plans as part of the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officer's Committee (ITSOC) and Infrastructure and Transport Minister's Meeting (ITMM) process.
  - Identify opportunities for continuous improvement on relationships with participating jurisdictions.
- Collaborating with jurisdictions and being responsive to jurisdictions in relation to:
  - Progressing national reform initiatives such as the legislative and non-legislative HVNL reforms, in relevant forums in addition to the NPSG, such as the Safety and Productivity Program, as well as future forums as approved by Ministers, such as a proposed National Access Framework Working Group.
  - matters relating to heavy vehicle access.
  - Providing a breakdown by jurisdiction within the NHVR Annual Report of compliance and enforcement costs and activities.