



MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian Government backs heavy vehicle driver training

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed a commitment of \$4 million over four years to fund the training and instruction of 800 new heavy vehicle drivers, fulfilling a commitment Premier Daniel Andrews made prior to last year's Victorian state election.

"The VTA congratulates the Andrews Labor Government for recognising the value of the heavy vehicle industry through its various budget commitments," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"We especially thank the Premier and his Government for acknowledging the value of the VTA's *Driver Delivery* program, with funding secured to ensure the Association can continue to provide highly-trained, competent and skilled heavy vehicle drivers at a time when driver shortages are rife in the industry."

The driver training funding commitment was just one of many measures contained in the 2019-2020 Victorian Budget delivered by Treasurer Tim Pallas that will benefit freight and logistics operators.

Other measures include further investments in road and rail infrastructure across the state, reduced payroll tax for business and land transfer duties for regional commercial and industrial properties, and other initiatives that will help to attract strategic investment in Victoria to create jobs and growth across the Victorian economy.

The *Suburban Transport Blitz* unveiled in the Budget provides record road and rail funding that will help to slash congestion. The \$27.4 billion program includes:

- \$15.8 billion to fully fund and build North East Link;
- \$6.6 billion to remove 25 additional level crossings;
- \$3.4 billion on upgrades to key Metro Rail lines (Sunbury, Hurstbridge and Cranbourne);
- \$608 million for upgrades and improvements to local roads;
- \$300 million towards planning for the future Suburban Rail Loop; and
- \$100 million towards the Western Rail Plan and separation of regional and metro rail services.

Away from infrastructure, the Victorian Government for the fourth consecutive year has promised payroll tax cuts for regional businesses that will keep it the lowest in the nation and make regional Victoria even more attractive for doing business. A 50% discount on land transfer duty on commercial and industrial properties in regional Victoria will be welcomed by operators planning to acquire or sell property.

With Victoria leading the nation on jobs and growth in recent years, it is encouraging measures are being taken to maintain the trend, with the budget including a \$150 million *Victorian Jobs & Investment Fund* that will attract strategic investment, create jobs and stimulate growth across the economy.

"Through this Budget the Government has delivered on its promises and the VTA and transport industry look forward to working with the Premier and his team to help deliver the projects we need to keep our state the most attractive place in Australia to live and do business in," Peter Anderson said.

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