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Victorian Transport Association Update
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VTA E-News

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In this issue:

- VTA welcomes Commonwealth stimulus package
- VTA State Conference 2020 a resounding success
- VTA backs the introduction of Road Occupation Charge
- NTC releases HVNL consultation summary paper
- NHVR calling for feedback on livestock supply chains
- Legislation targets dangerous drivers on VIC roads
- Southwestern Victoria safety blitz targeting trucks and ships
- Distracted truck drivers 11 times more likely to crash: study
- Training
- Events

VTA welcomes Commonwealth stimulus package

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed measures outlined in the \$17.6 billion stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison to help households and businesses confront current challenges facing the economy. Key features of the package include a one-off payment for households with family tax benefits to encourage spending in the economy, as well as an instant asset write-off, accelerated depreciation scheme and cashflow boost for employers, and wage assistance for apprentices and trainees. Details of the full stimulus package can be found [here](#).

VTA State Conference 2020 a resounding success

A record number of delegates attended a resoundingly successful VTA State Conference 2020 at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island. Under the theme of **Managing Increased**

Demand, delegates heard from 36 speakers and panellists who addressed the conference over the two days, including VTA CEO Peter Anderson who outlined the association's [agenda](#) for 2020. Our sincere thanks to speakers from government, regulators, suppliers and other industry experts for their generous time, and a special thanks to major sponsor TWUSUPER and for their generous support.

VTA backs the introduction of Road Occupation Charge

The VTA has [welcomed](#) the introduction of a [Road Occupation Charge \(ROC\)](#) to be levied on private companies, demonstrating how good government policy can support productive and efficient supply chains, and proving that clearways are needed in Melbourne rather than curfews. The new scheme involves construction and other private companies paying a Road Occupation Charge (ROC) if they block inner-city arterial roads whilst carrying out building works and other activities effective Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Further information about the ROC can be found [here](#).

NTC releases HVNL consultation summary paper

The [National Transport Commission \(NTC\)](#) has published its [Heavy Vehicle National Law \(HVNL\)](#) summary of consultation outcomes [report](#), which brings together more than 250 formal and over 300 informal submissions. The information contained in the report includes a summary of seven issues papers seeking feedback on the HVNL and opportunities to improve it - which will ultimately form the future law. According to the NTC, the aim is that the future HVNL will improve safety for all road users, support increases economic productivity and innovation, simplify the HVNL, its administration and enforcement of the law, and provide flexible, outcome-focused compliance options. The next phase of review involves the NTC developing a Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS). Further information about the review can be found [here](#).

NHVR calling for feedback on livestock supply chains

The [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator \(NHVR\)](#) is calling for feedback on future safety reforms across the livestock supply chain. The review targets several key areas where Chain of Responsibility (COR) laws apply to the movement of sheep and cattle. According to the NHVR's [Livestock Supply Chain Issues Paper](#), sheep and cattle movements account for about four per cent of the national freight task, but over 10 per cent of accidents, including a significant number of rollovers. While the average livestock journey from the farm gate to the processor is estimated to be over 500km, involving stops and transfers between feedlots, saleyards, vehicles and spelling. The Livestock Supply Chain Review issues paper and submission link can be found [here](#).

Legislation targets dangerous drivers on Victorian roads

The Victorian Government has now enshrined in law that immediate licence suspension for excessive speeding offences and where someone has been charged with using a motor vehicle as a weapon to commission a serious crime will now apply. Currently, immediate licence suspension is applied to drivers who are caught with drugs or excessive alcohol in their system. Under the new law, motorist caught travelling 45km/hr or more over the speed limit or 145km/hr or more in a 110km/hr zone will have their licence stripped as soon as

they are caught. The new laws deliver on a key commitment in the [Community Safety Statement 2019-20](#) to introduce legislation ensuring drivers charged with certain offences are immediately suspended from driving. Further information about the legislation can be found [here](#).

Southwestern Victoria safety blitz targeting trucks and ships

A rare law-enforcement and compliance blitz has been underway in Victoria's southwest. The blitz has seen more than 25 ships and 400 vehicles checked during the week as part of an operation targeting heavy vehicle and marine safety around Victoria's Port of Portland and Portland coastline. Victoria Police, along with the Australian Border Force (ABF), the Department of Home Affairs, Maritime Safety Victoria, Victorian Fisheries Authority and the Department of Transport were involved in Operation Crossway which took place in late February. The operation aims to ensure heavy vehicle operators and associated companies comply with relevant road safety legislation, and that the docks precinct's safety and security is maintained through a range of cargo checks. During the operation 61 heavy vehicle checks were conducted, pleasingly no trucks were taken off road, however, overall, when including other vehicles checked, 57 were found to be unroadworthy.

Distracted truck drivers 11 times more likely to crash: study

According to the latest findings by [Monash University Accident Research Centre \(MUARC\)](#), truck drivers are twice as likely to crash when fatigued and 11 times more likely to crash when both fatigued and distracted. Using a new purpose-built truck simulator to measure truck driver performance, the study accurately detected the level of truck driver fatigue ahead of when a safety critical event occurs. The study also tested fatigue prevention and driver-monitoring technology in working fleet trucks on the road. World-class Guardian technology supplied by [Seeing Machines](#) in partnership with [Ron Finemore Transport](#) and [Volvo Trucks Australia](#), examined driver behaviour well before a microsleep occurred. Over 100 drivers enrolled in the study, collectively driving 22,000 trips over 1.5 million kilometres, resulting in the largest and most comprehensive study of its kind in the world.

Training

- [Prescribed Industrial Waste](#) –24th and 31st of March & 7th and 21st April 2020
- Chain of Responsibility – [Safety Management Systems](#) – 25th March 2020
- Chain of Responsibility – [Fatigue Management](#) – 1st April 2020
- Master Class – [Maximising Value of Business](#) – 2nd April 2020
- Chain of Responsibility – [Load Restraint](#) – 22nd April 2020
- Chain of Responsibility – [Awareness](#) – 6th May 2020

Upcoming Events

- VTA Ministerial Breakfast, 29 April, Sofitel Melbourne