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VTA E-News

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Last chance to secure tickets to the 30th Anniversary Australian Freight Industry Awards

There are only a few days left to buy your tickets to the [2019 Australian Freight Industry Awards](#). This year marks the 30th anniversary of the AFIA's with this year's event shaping up to be the most spectacular yet. Proudly sponsored by **TWUSUPER** and **Viva Energy Australia** the VTA hopes you can show your support for our industry by joining in this year's celebrations at the **Palladium at Crown on Saturday, September 7**, to

recognise the outstanding achievements of Australian freight and logistics operators and be entertained by some of Australia's hottest acts. To secure your tickets, please click [here](#).

NHVR calls for changes to HNVL fatigue management laws

The [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#) (NHVR) has made a submission to the [Heavy Vehicle National Law](#) (HNVL) Review, contending any new laws should allow operators with demonstrably effective fatigue safety systems more flexibility to manage their own fatigue risks. The submission suggests that improved safety systems, rather than relying on simply measuring work and rest hours, would reduce fatigue-related crashes. All of the NHVR's recommended amendments to the HNVL Review can be viewed [here](#).

Heavy rigid vehicle fatalities on the rise: BITRE

New Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE) data shows fatal heavy rigid truck accidents have risen gradually over the past decade. Measured over the six months to June 2019, figures for heavy rigids and articulated trucks are approaching parity for the first time, with fatal crashes at 82 and 85 respectively, and fatalities at 94 and 95. The data shows in contrast to a significant decline in articulated trucks in the past decade, those for heavy rigids have passed figures last seen in 2009, at 91 in that year. So far this decade, in the years ended in June, fatal articulated truck crashes have fallen unevenly from 161 to 95, while those for heavy rigids rose from 75 to 94. Fatal heavy articulated truck accidents to June were down two from last June, at 85.

Austroads releases research report analysing key freight route for heavy vehicles

Peak roads agency [Austroads](#), has released a research report demonstrating how a range of heavy vehicles use roads designated as key freight routes. The *Key Freight Routes – Heavy Vehicle Usage Data Project*, in conjunction with [Transport Certification Australia](#) (TCA), collected data from heavy vehicles and found that telematics can provide a wide range of statistics that can help inform public policy, road planning and infrastructure spending decisions. The project, which involved more than 4,300 heavy vehicles and 1,000 transport operators, recommends developing a broader national freight vehicle telematics data collection which can be used at national, state, territory and local levels to inform all levels of roads policy and planning. A copy of the full report can be found [here](#).

VTA Technology Group – Driver Distraction and draft Smartphone app to manage (COR)

Yesterday, the Technology Group conducted a very well attended and informative workshop at the VTA. It consisted of two sessions: Luis Gutierrez and Mandi Mees presented on the current NTC Driver Distraction project. The second involved a panel presentation relating to a set of draft guidelines which have been developed for sub-contractors/transport operators to manage COR with a Smartphone app. This was also a very engaging session. A special thank you to all the working party (John Tsoucalas, Lara Fraumano, Jade Brooks and Dr Charles Karl) in developing the draft document. The working party will act upon the feedback received. For more information please contact Greg Cain at the VTA.

Newell Highway now open for HPFVs

Freight operators now have a faster, more efficient route between the Victorian and Queensland borders with the Newell Highway in New South Wales now open to higher productivity vehicles up to 30 metres in length. Performance Based Standards level 2B vehicles are now permitted to use the highway in its entirety in NSW, allowing operators to move freight more efficiently and reduce the number of trucks needed to carry similar volumes. Operators must apply for an access permit to use PBS vehicles on the Newell Highway through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator while Transport for NSW moves towards providing access to these networks under Notice. The PBS Level 2B Network is open to any vehicle configuration that does not exceed an overall length limit of 30.0 metres and complies with all PBS Level 2 safety standards.

NHVR seeks feedback on grain schemes

The NHVR is seeking industry feedback on the different heavy vehicle loading schemes used during grain harvest across Australia and has released a *Grain Harvest Management Schemes Review Issues Paper as part of its consultation*. Different schemes currently operate in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia, with a scheme operating in Western Australia, which is outside the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Each scheme allows for a variety of allowances, including increased loads of up to 10 per cent, depending on the state. The NHVR issues paper shows that grain transport costs could represent up to 30 per cent of total production costs. To review the issues paper visit www.nhvr.gov.au/consultation Submissions close October 18.

NatRoad call for heavy vehicle access overhaul

The [National Road Transport Association](#) (NatRoad) has advocated for a complete overhaul of Australia's heavy vehicle access system, labelling it an area of industry inefficiency that desperately requires reform. NatRoad has provided the [National Transport Commission](#) (NTC) a comprehensive submission to the [Heavy Vehicle National Law](#) (HVNL) Review proposing a different approach with a connected network of pre-approved routes at its core. NatRoads stated an efficient freight supply is one which can operate 24 hours, 7 days a week. While requiring heavy vehicle to travel only during daylight hours or in certain specified time period over less than optimal routes impedes productivity, increases operating costs and adds to road congestion. A full copy of the submission can be found [here](#).

Prime Mover July: Peter Anderson endorses heavy vehicle driver training approach

VTA CEO Peter Anderson has endorsed the Victorian Government's backing of training and education to attract new drivers to the industry, as well as raise standards and start to mitigate chronic driver shortages, in the July issue of Prime Mover magazine. To read the column in full follow this [link](#).

First stage of Victorian freight route upgrade completed

The first stage of an important freight route safety upgrade between Wodonga and Mount Beauty has now been completed with the \$8 million upgrade being jointly funded by the Victorian and Federal Governments. Stage 1 of the works along the Kiewa Valley Highway between Wodonga and Tawonga include sealed road shoulders, targeted intersection upgrades and safety barriers installed at high-risk locations. Victorian Minister for Roads,

Road Safety and the TAC, Jaala Pulford acknowledged that the safety improvement are critical in reducing the risk of accidents and serious injury. All stages are expected to be completed by mid-2020. Further information about the upgrade can be found [here](#).

Training

- [Prescribed Industrial Waste](#) – 27th of August, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th of September 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Awareness for Managers & Customers](#) – 4th September 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Sub-Contractor Management](#) – 11th September 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Safety Management Systems](#) – 18th September 2019
- Master Class – [Improving Customer Service](#) – 19th September 2019
- [Pallet Management for Pallet Controllers](#) – 25th September 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Fatigue Management](#) – 2nd October 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Load Restraint](#) – 9th October 2019

Upcoming Events

- [Australian Freight Industry Awards](#), 7 September, Crown Palladium Ballroom
- VTA Christmas Lunch, 13 December, Members' Dining Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground