



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA welcomes approval of industry's first approved EWD

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed today's announcement by the Australian Government and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator of the approval of the industry's first Electronic Work Diary (EWD).

Deputy Prime Minister and Transport and Infrastructure Minister Michael McCormack, and Assistant Minister for Road Safety Scott Buchholz, joined NHVR CEO Sal Petrocitto to announce Step Global and Teletrac Navman were the first EWD developers to meet the strict requirements to provide an electronic alternative to conventional pen and paper diaries, and that the technology could be rolled-out to transport companies from 1 December.

"EWDs have tremendous capacity to increase productivity and efficiency because they reduce the time required to manually record work and rest hours, allowing drivers more time to complete their vital transport work," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"The capacity for EWDs to reduce this kind of red tape is enormous and converts into potentially many millions of dollars in productivity gains which can be reinvested back into transport operators and the people they employ.

Mr Anderson said EWDs also had the potential to contribute to better safety outcomes and were an important tool in ensuring compliancy.

"The industry has worked hard to reduce fatigue among drivers, and we welcome the use of technology that can lead to healthier, better-rested and more compliant drivers," he said.

"We congratulate the Commonwealth Government and the NHVR for working with industry on the development of the EWD Policy Framework and Standards, which will govern the implementation of electronic work diaries across our industry, and help transport operators adjust to this new way of recording work and rest.

"However, it should also be recognised that the EWD should not be used by enforcement agencies as a means to become overzealous in the application of current fatigue laws."

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