

STATEMENT ON THE 1 MAY 2023 MEETING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

16 May 2023

The fifth meeting of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Reform Implementation Steering Committee meeting was held via GovTeams on Monday 1 May 2023.

The Steering Committee comprises the following members:

- Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Mr Howard Collins, OBE, A/g Secretary, Transport for New South Wales (NSW)
- Mr Neil Scales, OBE, Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
- Mr Gary Swain, Deputy Secretary, Transport and Infrastructure, Department of State Growth (Tasmania).

The Steering Committee continues to receive independent advice from:

- Mr Ken Kanofski
- Mr Sanjiv Sathaih, Director, Transport and Infrastructure Policy, Australian Local Government Association.

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government recently announced that industry representatives would be invited to participate in some Steering Committee meetings to provide advice and comment on particular issues. Representatives from the Australian Trucking Association, the Heavy Vehicle Industry Association and the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association attended the May meeting.

The industry representatives commented on industry frustration at the pace of progress on reform implementation, the range of challenges and issues currently facing heavy vehicle operators in addition to the HVNL work (such as zero emissions, autonomous vehicles, axle weights) and the importance of ensuring new legislation / regulation is fit for purpose and can meet the future needs of the industry. Industry representatives offered to work constructively with governments and take a pragmatic approach to meet the current and future challenges.

The Chair acknowledged the industry message is clear, and reiterated the Steering Committee's role was to oversee HVNL reform to achieve implementation consistent with the outcomes agreed by Ministers and as soon as practicable. The Chair undertook to ensure there was ongoing engagement between the Steering Committee and industry representatives.

The Steering Committee noted that detailed development of non-legislative reforms (around 20) is underway, and effective cooperation between jurisdictions to ensure work is properly scoped to deliver the intent of the reform agenda will be important. While the non-legislative reform work to date has largely focussed on planning, analysis and preparatory activities, momentum is expected to build over coming months.

The National Transport Commission (NTC) provided an update on their HVNL legislative reform program. NTC again noted the Decision Regulation Impact Statement (D-RIS) currently being consulted on by the NTC is due to be considered by Infrastructure and Transport Ministers at their meeting in June.

WSP gave a presentation to the Steering Committee outlining their preliminary views and advice on the interoperability aspects of the National Automated Access System (NAAS). They are due to complete their work and provide a final report by end of May. It was noted that significant investments in streamlining and automating access decisions are well underway in most jurisdictions. The WSP findings will help the Steering Committee ensure a coherent national system.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on 13 June 2023.