

STATEMENT ON THE 27 NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

14 December 2023

The ninth meeting of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Reform Implementation Steering Committee meeting was held via MS Teams on Monday 27 November 2023.

The Steering Committee was attended by the following members:

- Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Mr Matt Fuller representing Mr Josh Murray, Secretary, Transport for NSW (NSW)
- Mr Geoff Magoffin representing Ms Sally Stannard, Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
- Mr Gary Swain, Deputy Secretary, Department of State Growth (Tasmania).

The Steering Committee continues to receive independent advice from:

- Mr Ken Kanofski
- Ms Amy Crawford, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).
- Mr Sanjiv Sathiah, Director, Transport and Infrastructure Policy, ALGA.

Prior to the November meeting, members of the Steering Committee met with representatives from some heavy vehicle industry peak bodies. The aim of this ‘industry dialogue’ session was to update industry members on challenges with delivering the HVNL legislative reform package, and test some possible options in response.

The Steering Committee has concluded these challenges mean the amendment Bill and regulations won’t be ready in time to meet the narrow window for introduction before the Queensland election. Important elements of the legislative package simply won’t be ready by July 2024, no matter how many additional resources are being brought in.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the disappointment this will cause for industry members who have been waiting for these reforms. The Committee does not want this process to go for longer than needed. However, if the legislative package is not going to be

ready for introduction into the Queensland Parliament as planned, there is extra time to optimise the ambition and eventual impact and benefit of the reform package.

The National Transport Commission (NTC) presented two options, one delivering all high priority reforms (as agreed in August 2022 by transport Ministers) by December 2024 (with remaining reforms delivered within longer timeframes), and the second option delivering additional reforms not included in the December 2024 package by June 2025.

The Steering Committee agreed to put the December 2024 option to the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting (ITMM) for consideration, noting the majority preference of industry peak bodies was for the shortest delay possible that would still deliver on the full ambition of the Kanofski reform propositions agreed by Ministers in 2022.

The December 2024 option was approved by ITMM on 6 December 2023, with the NTC to draft a work program setting out timeframes to deliver remaining legislative reforms not included in the December 2024 package.

The Steering Committee also agreed—in response to suggestions from the industry dialogue session—to brief industry representatives on the planned roll-out of the National Automated Access System (NAAS) based on the Tasmanian Heavy Vehicle Access Management System. A NAAS oversight sub-committee of the Steering Committee will be established to oversee and ensure alignment of work under the NAAS.

The Steering Committee noted the following progress on other non-legislative HVNL reforms:

- The first milestone for reform 1.3 ‘Clarify the role of government parties regarding productivity’ was complete, noting deadlines for later milestones will be set in 2024.
- A paper with recommendations for reform 9.2 ‘Tenure and composition of the NHVR Board’ was agreed out-of-session, and will now be transmitted to the NTC for inclusion in the legislative amendment package.

The Steering Committee noted the NTC’s Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (C-RIS) closed on Friday 24 November 2023, with around 30 written submissions expected.

Both the NTC and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator were in attendance for the entire Steering Committee meeting.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 5 February 2024.