

# STATEMENT ON THE 17 FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

10 April 2025

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The seventeenth meeting of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Reform Implementation Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) was held on Monday 17 February 2025.

The membership and remit of the Steering Committee has been expanded to include members from Victoria, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Local Government Association following a decision taken by Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials (ITSOC) at the end of 2024. This approach is intended to ensure all HVNL jurisdictions are well-placed to drive reform progress and guide delivery of HVNL reforms. As a result of the expansion of the Steering Committee jurisdictions will now be represented at the First Assistant Secretary (Commonwealth) and Deputy Director-General (State/Territory) level. Ms Paula Stagg replaces Mr Jim Betts as Chairperson of the Steering Committee. This meeting was the first Steering Committee featuring the expanded membership.

The Steering Committee provides primary oversight of the delivery of the National Automated Access System (NAAS), taking over the role of the previous NAAS Oversight Committee. The revised remit of the Steering Committee is complemented by establishment of a dedicated Technical Advisory Group comprising representatives of all governments, independently chaired by a well-known road transport and heavy vehicle, expert, Michael Bushby. Governments have dedicated these new resources and expertise to the Technical Advisory Group to develop a detailed roadmap for development and implementation of the NAAS.

The Steering Committee received an update from the Independent Chair of the NAAS-TAG, following the first face-to-face workshop of the Technical Advisory Group held in Melbourne

on 13 and 14 February. The workshop represented strong collaboration from governments in progressing the NAAS. Governments remain committed to improving productivity for the heavy vehicle sector, through automating access decision-making. The Steering Committee noted the need to continue engaging with industry to inform development of the NAAS.

The Steering Committee received an update from the National Transport Commission (NTC) on progress and next steps to deliver the legislative package to be provided to Ministers for consideration in the first half of this year. The NTC completed industry and public consultation on the exposure draft in November 2024, and has been working with jurisdictions to incorporate feedback. At its next meeting the Steering Committee will consider a detailed project plan outlining remaining key decisions, implementation and operation of the new law.

The Steering Committee will review progress and next steps on reforms to the Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme, updating the fitness to drive guidelines, and initiatives under the National Access Framework for Heavy Vehicles at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled to be held on 29 April 2025.