



INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS

Communiqué

Tuesday, 30 MARCH 2021

Heavy Vehicle Charges for 2021-22

Infrastructure and Transport Ministers met and considered the latest estimates from the National Transport Commission (NTC), and acknowledged that, following recent growth in government investment in roads, there was a growing gap between road expenditure and revenue from charges. National heavy vehicle charges are designed to recover the heavy vehicle share of road expenditure.

Having considered the submissions of industry representatives, Ministers agreed charges should rise by 2.5 per cent in 2021-22, to contribute to the construction and maintenance of roads. As part of the response to COVID in 2020, this increase was held back to ensure road transport operators could continue the vital task of getting freight delivered all over Australia despite the pandemic.

Ministers noted the charge increase for 2021-22 would be significantly less than the amount of 13.4 per cent estimated by the NTC as necessary to recover the heavy vehicle share of recent road construction and maintenance costs.

Western Australia and Northern Territory will separately consider their heavy vehicle registration fees for 2021-22. These are set independently of national decisions taken by Ministers.

Rail Safety National Law Amendments

Ministers also agreed minor amendments to Freedom of Information (FOI) and Drug and Alcohol offence provisions under the Rail Safety National Law. These amendments reduce the administrative burden for the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) in responding to FOI requests and provide certainty for ONRSR and rail safety workers regarding the application of drug and alcohol testing.

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS¹

The Hon Michael McCormack MP	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Commonwealth)
The Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport (Commonwealth)
The Hon Andrew Constance MP	Minister for Transport and Roads (New South Wales)
The Hon Paul Toole MP	Minister for Regional Transport and Roads (New South Wales)
The Hon Ben Carroll MP	Minister for Public Transport; Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)
The Hon Mark Bailey MP	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
The Hon Corey Wingard MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (South Australia)
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning (Western Australia)
The Hon Eva Lawler MLA	Minister for Renewables and Energy; Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics; Environment; Water Security; Climate Change; Essential Services (Northern Territory)
Chris Steel MLA	Minister for Transport and City Services, Minister for Skills, Special Minister of State (Australian Capital Territory)

¹ Please note the Tasmanian Government is in caretaker mode.

