



Land Transport Industry – COVID-19 Response Update 7 May 2020

Next Major Dates

- 8 May 2020 – National Cabinet will consider the first phase of easing coronavirus restrictions.

Recent Updates


- On 5 May 2020, the Transport and Infrastructure Council agreed to freeze heavy vehicle charges at their current levels for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The Communique with the Council statement can be found at www.transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/communique.
- On 30 April 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP held a third update meeting with representatives from the Land Transport Industry to hear about the experience on the ground and gain insight into planning for future recovery.
- On 26 April 2020, the Australian Government launched the COVIDSafe app to help speed up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). Downloading the COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Please read the information from the Department of Health at www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app before downloading.
- On Friday 24 April 2020, the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator advised that all jurisdictions have now gazetted the limited exemption agreed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council on 31 March 2020 for Rail Safety Worker Health assessments.

Introduction

The Land Transport Industry (Industry) has played a critical role during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic highlighting the importance of the Industry in supporting Australian communities and the economy by providing essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) is engaging with Industry, regulators, other Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments on a regular basis. We are working to ensure land transport services, particularly freight and personnel to facilitate the supply chain, continue to be able to move around the country during the coronavirus pandemic, and to understand and address emerging concerns before they adversely impact that supply.

While the state and territory governments are responsible for measures and restrictions in their jurisdictions, the Department has undertaken to provide a collection of useful links to direct Industry to relevant resources.



The Department will release a regular newsletter with helpful information for Industry. However, this should not replace referring to the Australian Government websites at www.australia.gov.au and www.health.gov.au and relevant state and territory government websites for the most up to date advice.

Useful Resources

Below are some useful links (as at 7 May 2020) you may wish to access or distribute.

Australian Government Resources

- Essential Information updates from the Australian Government are available at www.australia.gov.au, this includes announcements from the National Cabinet.
- The COVIDSafe app has been released to help speed up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). Downloading the COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Please read the information from the Department of Health at www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app before downloading.
- Health advice and resources are available from the Department of Health at www.health.gov.au, including advice on cleaning and disinfection principles at www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-health-and-residential-care-facilities.
- Also available from the Department of Health is an infographic regarding access to remote and very remote communities at www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/keeping-communities-safe-from-coronavirus-remote-area-travel-restrictions.
- COVID-19 information for workplaces is also available at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces including information for the transport sector.
- Details of the Australian Government economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available from the Treasury at www.treasury.gov.au, including specific support for affected businesses at www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses.

Regulator Resources

- The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is providing updates on their response to the COVID-19 pandemic at www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/coronavirus-response including the [COVID-19 map: service centres and roadhouses](#).
- The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator is routinely updating a Fact Sheet on their response to COVID-19 pandemic available at www.onrsr.com.au.

State and Territory Government Resources

NSW Government Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Portal

- The NSW Government (led by NSW Treasury's - Industry Division) has developed and released a new website/portal containing details of PPE suppliers for NSW industry and communities to access at <https://buy.nsw.gov.au/news/2020/covid-19-emergency-supplies-portal>.
- Over 1700 businesses responded to the NSW Premier's call to help supply medical equipment and hygiene products to essential services businesses and workers in NSW.
- Lists are broken down per PPE/hygiene product and they indicate regions/areas of NSW the business services.
- Industry buyers including industry associations, businesses, local governments, private healthcare providers and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to use the PPE supplier list for industry to secure supplies needed for safe and robust operations in your local communities.

Internal Border Control Resources

State and territory governments are responsible for the specific measures introduced in each jurisdiction. The following links direct industry to up to date information about each state and territory's border controls and exemption criteria/requirements but these may be subject to rapid change so Industry is encouraged to refer to the relevant state or territory government website on a regular basis.


Jurisdiction	Requirements
Queensland	Queensland Entry Pass: www.qld.gov.au/border-pass Border Closure Information: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing Management Plan: www.datsip.qld.gov.au/coronavirus/travel-restrictions-remote-communities
Western Australia	WA Government website: www.wa.gov.au
South Australia	Essential Travellers: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions Biosecurity Act Restrictions: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/restrictions-on-movement-into-aboriginal-communities2
Tasmania	Essential Traveller Criteria: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers/essential-traveller-criteria Forms: https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/biosecurity/biosecurity-forms/covid-19-important-information-for-travellers Quarantine Conditions: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers/quarantine-conditions-for-essential-travellers

Jurisdiction	Requirements
Northern Territory	Essential Traveller Categories: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls/exemption-categories-for-essential-travellers NT Border Arrival Form: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls Remote Essential Worker application: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/designated-areas-and-remote-communities/approved-remote-essential-workers
New South Wales	NSW COVID-19 webpage: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
Victoria	Victoria COVID-19 webpage: https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
Australian Capital Territory	ACT COVID-19 webpage: www.covid19.act.gov.au/

Achievements

Through our work together over recent weeks, our achievements include:

- *Transport and Infrastructure Council Statement* – On 25 March 2020, the Transport and Infrastructure Council (Council) affirmed the critical role the freight sector plays in providing essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods. This recognition extended to all members of the freight distribution chain, including those in the back-office working out rostering and logistics. The Communique with the Council statement can be found at www.transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/communique.
- *Rest Stop Exemption* – On 30 March 2020, the National Cabinet agreed to exempt rest stops and road houses from restrictions on non-essential services. Rest stops and roadhouses provide services such as rest and shower facilities to heavy vehicle drivers to meet Heavy Vehicle National Law fatigue requirements. Details of this exemption are at www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/ris/index.aspx.
- *Temporary Medical Requirements Exemption for Rail Workers* – On 31 March 2020, the Council agreed an exemption for transport operators to section 114 of the Rail Safety National Law, allowing operators to postpone routine health assessments for rail safety workers for three months. This exemption allows flexibility as upcoming medical requirements may not be possible to meet considering the current pressure on the medical sector. The Communique with the Council statement can be found at www.transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/communique.
- *Temporary Changes to the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS)* – On 25 March 2020, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) introduced changes to the NHVAS for an initial six-month period. These changes involve enabling drivers operating under Advanced Fatigue Management or Basic Fatigue Management to continue to drive with an expired medical until they can practicably obtain one (unless high risk) and the introduction of remote audits to remove the need for auditors to visit premises.
- *Heavy Vehicle Night Curfews* – In March 2020, the Commonwealth and NHVR assisted state and territory jurisdictions with the removal of night-time curfews to ensure trucks can access supermarkets and distribution centres 24 hours a day. Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia have 24-hour delivery.

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- *Industry and Jurisdiction Engagement* – The Deputy Prime Minister and the Department are leading regular roundtable meetings with industry and state and territory jurisdictions to ensure the continued flow of freight across Australia. These forums provide an opportunity to identify and address issues that impact the land transport sector during the COVID 19 pandemic.

We continue to work together to resolve items in the following areas:

- Essential freight access to Designated Biosecurity Areas under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Preparing and working together to ensure that if restrictions change in the coming weeks, Industry is informed quickly and able to make appropriate adjustments.
- Heavy vehicle industry access to medical assessments for licencing and registration.
- Consideration of the outlook for the Industry over the coming months and opportunities for strengthening the Industry in the future.
- Understanding and quantifying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the movement of passengers by the transport industry, which has been heavily impacted by the decline in cross-border travel and tourism.
- Engaging with the Treasury to understand Industry access to the Australian Government's economic support package in response to COVID-19.