



Land Transport Industry – COVID-19 Response Update 16 October 2020

The Land Transport Industry (Industry) is playing 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.

To maintain the safety of Industry members and the wider community, operators must continue to adhere to best practice health advice for cleaning, hygiene and physical distancing.

This update is a part of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the Department) continuing ongoing engagement with Industry, regulators, other Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments as we move towards recovery.

As state and territory governments take measures under the Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia, the Department has developed the collection of resources in this Update to assist Industry. Industry should continue to refer to the Australian Government websites at www.australia.gov.au and www.health.gov.au, along with relevant state and territory government websites, for the most up to date advice.

Recent Updates

Jurisdiction Border Controls

Australia's success suppressing COVID-19 in recent weeks has resulted in a number of introduced and announced changes to jurisdictions border controls. Changes to which areas are subject to border controls results in changes to when border control measures must be adhered to. Industry are encouraged to regularly review state and territory webpages to keep across these changes.

16 September 2020 - South Australia reopened border to the Australian Capital Territory

24 September 2020 – South Australia reopened border to New South Wales

25 September 2020 – Queensland no longer classifies the Australian Capital Territory as a hotspot

9 October 2020 – the Northern Territory no longer classifies the greater Sydney region as a hotspot.



Australian Government Budget 2020-21

On 6 October 2020, the Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, delivered the Federal Budget 2020-21. The Budget outlines the Economic Recovery Plan for Australia to create jobs, rebuild the economy and secure Australia's future.

The 2020-21 Budget commits further response and recovery support, bringing the Government's overall support to \$507 billion, including \$257 billion in direct economic support.



Many of the measures announced will assist the Land Transport Industry, including:

- From 7:30pm (AEDT) on 6 October 2020 until 30 June 2022, businesses with turnover up to \$5 billion will be able to **deduct the full cost of eligible depreciable assets** of any value in the year they are installed. The cost of improvements to existing eligible assets during this period can also be fully deducted.
- **Loss carry-back** will allow companies with turnover up to \$5 billion to offset losses against previous profits on which tax has been paid, to generate a refund.
- From 7 October 2020, the **JobMaker Hiring Credit** will be available for business to claim \$200 a week if they hire an eligible young person aged 16 to 29 years, or \$100 a week if they hire an eligible young person aged 30 to 35 years. All businesses can also apply for a 50 per cent wage subsidy to take on new apprentices, under a new **\$1.2 billion apprenticeship support program**.
- The Australian Government is investing more than **\$2 billion towards road safety** initiatives, including \$2 billion for a new Road Safety Program and \$5.5 million over four years to establish an Australian-first National Road Safety Data Hub.
Further information is available in a [media release](#) from the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport.
- Overall federal **investment in transport infrastructure** over the four years to 2023-24 will amount to more than **\$48.8 billion** (with approximately \$38 billion for roads and almost \$10 billion for rail).

Further information about the Budget 2020-21 can be found at: <https://budget.gov.au/>.

A useful overview and factsheets are available at: <https://budget.gov.au/2020-21/content/overview.htm>.

Mutual Recognition of COVIDSafe Plans

Under the Freight Movement Code for Domestic Border Controls (Code), states and territories will mutually recognise COVIDSafe workplans developed by the relevant operator. Mutual recognition may not be possible for all jurisdictions at all times due to different stages of COVID-19 response or recovery.

As of 12 October 2020, in practice mutual recognition occurs in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

Health Directions

From 23 September 2020, Queensland's *Border restrictions Direction (No. 15)* became effective. The Code has been implemented through the *Operational protocol for freight movements entering Queensland* available at: www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions/freight-services-protocol.

On 9 October 2020, the Australian Capital Territory formally implemented the Code. The *Public Health (COVID-19 Interstate Travellers) Emergency Direction 2020 (No 2)* is available at: www.covid19.act.gov.au/what-you-can-do/act-public-health-directions.

Medicare Rebate Extension

On 18 September 2020, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced a \$2 billion extension in funding for Medicare-subsidised telehealth and pathology services for a further six months, to 31 March 2021. A media release from the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, is available at: www.pm.gov.au/media/2-billion-extend-critical-health-services-across-australia

This includes the extension to the Medicare rebate for asymptomatic testing of freight operators at private COVID 19 testing clinics. From 22 September 2020, interstate rail crew will also be able to access bulk-billed COVID-19 pathology testing through this Medicare Item.

Further information about the Medicare Benefits Scheme Item 69501 is available at: www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-Extension-COVID-Pathology

SafeT360

The Australian Trucking Association's SafeT360 is an interactive custom-built road safety exhibition that uses virtual reality and interactive messaging all packed into a real travelling truck and trailer. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the SafeT360 travelling exhibition was put on pause. However, the SafeT360 is now back on the road and resuming its national tour, currently in Adelaide.

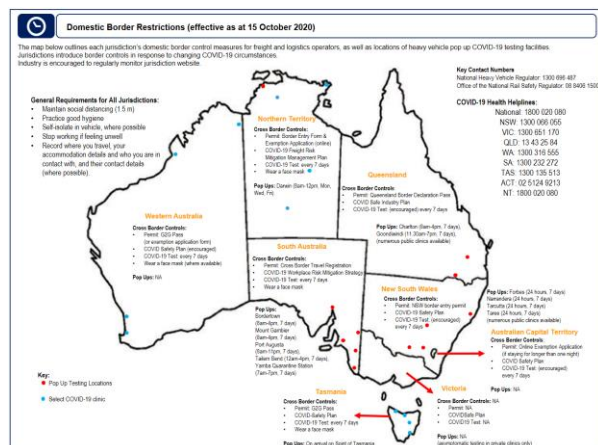
Information about SafeT360 is available at: www.safet360.com.au/

Domestic Border Controls Map

A useful map is attached at the end of this newsletter.

The map provides an overview of key enforceable measures implemented from the Code, as well as public health contact numbers. These measures should be followed along with the latest government health advice.

Whilst the map is correct as of publication, state and territory governments may amend the requirements for their jurisdictions. Industry should regularly review state and territory webpages for the latest information.





Resources

Australian Government Resources

General COVID-19

- Essential Information updates from the Australian Government are available at: www.australia.gov.au.
- The COVIDSafe app has been released to help speed up contacting people who may have been exposed to 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. Information about the Medicare rebate available to freight operators attending a private pathology clinic for a COVID-19 test is available at: www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-Extension-COVID-Pathology
- Safe Work Australia also COVID-19 information for the workplace at: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces. This includes information about cleaning for the freight industry at: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/road-freight/cleaning.
- The National COVID-19 Commission has assembled a series of resources to assist business' assess the current state of their business and to plan for the future at: www.pmc.gov.au/ncc/what-stage-your-business-get-advice-help-you-plan.

Economic Response

- 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.
- Details of the Federal Budget 2020-21 are available at: <https://budget.gov.au/>

Regulator Resources

- The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) provides regular updates on their dedicated COVID-19 webpage. Information about the NHVR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: www.nhvr.gov.au/coronavirus
- The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator has a Fact Sheet on their response to COVID-19 pandemic, available at: www.onrsr.com.au.

State and Territory Government Resources

Jurisdiction	Requirements
Queensland	<p>Border Information: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing</p> <p>Queensland Border Declaration Pass (Freight and Logistics): www.qld.gov.au/border-pass/freight-and-logistics</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/testing-and-fever-clinics</p>
Western Australia	<p>Border Information: www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-travel-wa</p> <p>G2G Pass: www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/g2g-now-frequently-asked-questions</p> <p>FAQ: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/g2g-pass-travel-exemptions-frequently-asked-questions</p>
South Australia	<p>Border Information: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions</p> <p>Cross Border Travel Registration: https://forms.police.sa.gov.au/Runtime/Runtime/Form/CrossBorderTravel</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid-19/testing+and+tracing/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres</p>
Tasmania	<p>Border Information: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/coming-to-tasmania</p> <p>G2G PASS: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/g2g-pass</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers</p> <p>Quarantine Conditions: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers/quarantine-conditions-for-essential-travellers</p>
Northern Territory	<p>Border Information: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls</p> <p>Border Entry Form: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/interstate-arrivals</p> <p>Exemption Application: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/exemptions/#/person_providing_services_for_transport_or_freight_of_goods</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/symptoms-testing</p>
New South Wales	<p>Border Information: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions</p> <p>COVID-19 NSW Border Entry Permit: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics</p>
Victoria	<p>Victoria COVID-19 webpage: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus</p> <p>Permitted Worker Scheme: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/permitted-worker-scheme-covid-19</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19</p>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Border Controls: www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/travelling-and-transport</p> <p>Exemption Application: www.covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested</p>



Domestic Border Restrictions (effective as at 15 October 2020)

The map below outlines each jurisdiction's domestic border control measures for freight and logistics operators, as well as locations of heavy vehicle pop up COVID-19 testing facilities. Jurisdictions introduce border controls in response to changing COVID-19 circumstances. Industry is encouraged to regularly monitor jurisdiction website.

General Requirements for All Jurisdictions:

- Maintain social distancing (1.5 m)
- Practice good hygiene
- Self-isolate in vehicle, where possible
- Stop working if feeling unwell
- Record where you travel, your accommodation details and who you are in contact with, and their contact details (where possible).

