



Land Transport Industry Update

24 November 2020

The Land Transport Industry (Industry) plays a critical role in Australia's economy, ensuring access to essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods. This update is a part of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the Department) ongoing engagement with Industry, regulators, other Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments as we move towards recovery.

National Cabinet Reform Committee

On 29 May 2020, the National Cabinet announced the formation of the National Federation Reform Council, which would replace the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The National Cabinet will continue to be the primary body for decision making by the Prime Minister and First Ministers on issues of national interest. This was followed by the announcement of the formation of six National Cabinet Reform Committees, including a Reform Committee for Infrastructure and Transport.

- 29 May 2020, National Cabinet announcement of the National Federation Reform Council: www.pm.gov.au/media/update-following-national-cabinet-meeting
- 12 June 2020, National Cabinet announcement of the six National Cabinet Reform Committees: www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-12june20

Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting

Throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, has met regularly with his state and territory counterparts to discuss the pandemic's impacts on the infrastructure and transport industries, and what governments can do to assist. However, with the cessation of COAG, the COAG Transport and Infrastructure Council has formally ceased to exist. Instead, Australia's Transport and Infrastructure Ministers will continue to meet through the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) process.

20 November 2020 ITMM (Meeting)

On 20 November, Australia's Transport and Infrastructure Ministers met at the ITMM. Ministers discussed a wide range of issues including the role of transport infrastructure construction in Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. This aligns with the Australian Government's Budget 2020-21 which outlines the Economic Recovery Plan for Australia including the \$110 billion transport infrastructure program.

The ITMM Communique provides a complete overview of items discussed and agreed at ITMM. This update highlights a few of interest items for Industry members.

- 20 November 2020, ITMM Communique: www.transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/14th-infrastructure-and-transport-ministers-meeting-communique.pdf



National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

The National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, endorsed in 2019, provides a national approach to Australia's freight and supply chains. At the November ITMM, Ministers endorsed the first annual progress report for the Strategy. The annual report highlights Australia's freight network performance over the last 12 months including and progress made against the National Action Plan to June 2020.

For more information, the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy Secretariat can be contacted at: FreightStrategy@infrastructure.gov.au.

- 20 November 2020, Annual Report: www.freightaustralia.gov.au/annual-report.

National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30

Ministers also considered a draft of the National Road Safety Strategy 2021–30. The draft, which is expected to be released in early 2021, will be available at: www.roadsafety.gov.au/.

On 1 July 2019, the Australian Government established the Office of Road Safety to provide national leadership and coordination to improve road safety outcomes. The Office is leading the development of the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30. The Office also distributes a regular newsletter with road safety updates.

For enquiries, and to join the newsletter distribution list, the Office can be contacted at: officeofroadsafety@infrastructure.gov.au.

Heavy Vehicle National Law Review

The National Transport Commission (NTC) is leading a review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL). At ITMM, Ministers noted the NTC's progress on the HVNL Review is on track to provide a package of policy and regulatory reforms for consideration by Ministers at their May 2021 meeting.

The consultation period for the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement has ended. However, Industry can engage with the process through the HVNL Review website at: <https://hvnreview.ntc.gov.au/have-your-say>.

The NTC can be contacted at: hvnreview@ntc.gov.au.

National Rail Action Plan

At ITMM, Ministers noted the NTC's progress of the National Rail Action Plan to improve harmonisation, interoperability, and skills and labour in the rail sector. The NTC had established three industry and government working groups to deliver the National Rail Action Plan. The National Rail Action Plan can be viewed at: www.ntc.gov.au/sites/default/files/assets/files/National-Rail-Action-Plan.pdf.

National Approach to Stevedore Infrastructure Charges

Ministers asked the NTC to develop voluntary national guidelines for applying stevedore infrastructure and access charges. We will circulate further information about these guidelines as it becomes available.