



Land Transport Industry – COVID-19 Response Update 18 December 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.

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

Stay Safe this Holiday Season

As we get closer to Christmas and New Year's celebrations, there will be an increasing number of Australians moving around the country to visit friends and family. For many Australians this will be the first opportunity to see loved ones in many weeks and months. 2020 has been an exceptionally demanding year and we encourage all freight operators to take the opportunity to relax and spend time with family and friends. However, the increased number of people on the move will create added risks for COVID-19 transmission and road safety.

All operators are encouraged to maintain their cleaning, hygiene and physical distancing precautions. Adhering to your organisation's COVIDSafe Plan will ensure together, we can proactively manage COVID-19 transmission risks caused by the increased movement of people. If you feel at all unwell, make sure you take care of yourself, stop work and get a COVID-19 test.

During COVID-19 there were fewer personal cars on the road ([BITRE, 2020](#)). However, the opening of domestic borders, in line with the Framework for National Reopening ([National Cabinet, 2020](#)), will increase the numbers of cars on the road. Road safety, including at level crossings, is especially important at this time of the year.

Heading into Australia's bushfire and flood prone summer season is also an opportune time to review your organisation's existing Emergency Management procedures.

Should issues arise the Commonwealth can be contacted at: LandTransport.COVID19@infrastructure.gov.au.

Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Road Transport

The Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Road Transport has released a statement thanking the Industry for the critical role they have played throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistant Minister Buchholz said, "I want to thank all the freight operators, drivers, DC workers, manufacturing and maintenance crews who have met the challenge of increased local demand, keeping our supermarkets stocked and our economy running".

This is an opportune time for Australians looking for their first job or to retrain in a new role, to consider a career in the freight and logistics industry.

Opportunities in the freight transport sector are available at:

- www.yourcareer.gov.au
- www.myskills.gov.au

Assistant Minister Buchholz's statement is available at: <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/buchholz/media-release/australian-government-thanks-freight-and-logistics-sector>.

Freight Movement Code Update

Under the Freight Movement Code, the inclusion of mandatory or voluntary COVID-19 testing is a decision of each State or Territory Government. Australian governments are currently reviewing the testing requirements for asymptomatic freight operators.

Asymptomatic COVID-19 testing remains voluntary, but encouraged, in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

South Australia and the Northern Territory have made recent changes to their requirements.

South Australia

Commercial Transport & Freight Service operators are no longer required to have a COVID-19 test before entering South Australia if arriving from a low community transmission zone.

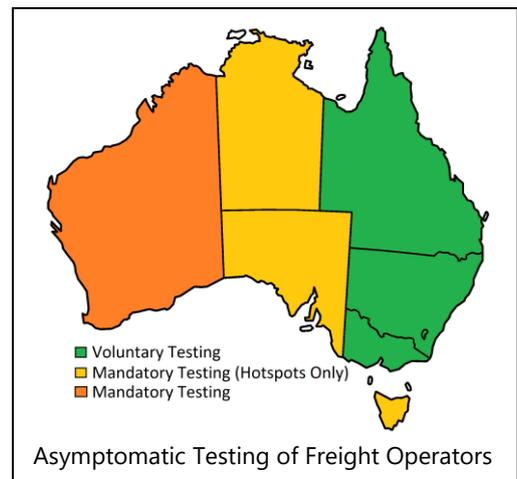
Further information is available at: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/covidborderinfo>.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory has removed the requirement for freight workers (including drivers) to undertake mandatory asymptomatic COVID-19 testing every seven days. Replacing it with a requirement to undertake testing if showing symptoms or have been in a declared hotspot in the last 14 days, or have been in a hotspot in the 24 hours prior to it being declared a hotspot.

Further information for freight workers is available at:

https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/exemptions#/person_providing_services_for_transport_or_freight_of_goods.



Domestic Border Controls

State and territory governments may continue to announce border control changes in response to localised outbreaks throughout the holiday period. Industry should monitor the relevant jurisdictional webpages to ensure they comply with the latest border control arrangements.

Relevant webpages are:

- NSW: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19
- VIC: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- QLD: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/
- SA: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/
- TAS: <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>
- ACT: www.covid19.act.gov.au/
- NT: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>
- WA: www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus



Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative – Round 6

On 20 November 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP and the Hon Scott Buchholz MP, Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport launched Round 6 of the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSU).

The \$5.55 million provided for Round 6 is in addition to the \$22.8 million already provided for 89 HVSU grants over the past five years. Three key themes have been identified for initiatives under Round 6 of the HVSU:

Safer Drivers

Safer Vehicles

Safer Road Use



Applications are open until 12 February 2021, for initiatives to commence in the 2021-22 financial year and be completed by 30 June 2024.

Further information, including the Submission guidelines and form, is available on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's website at:

www.nhvr.gov.au/about-us/heavy-vehicle-safety-initiative.

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.
- Safe Work Australia has COVID-19 information for the workplace at: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces.

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.

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
New South Wales	Border Information: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions NSW Entry Declaration Form: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/complete-nsw-entry-declaration-form COVID Testing Facilities: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics
Victoria	Border Information: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-people-travelling-sa-vic-covid-19 Victorian Border Crossing Permit: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/south-australian-border-permit COVID Testing Facilities: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-people-travelling-sa-vic-covid-19#testing-locations-for-truck-drivers

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/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-travel-wa</p> <p>G2G Pass: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/g2g-pass-travel-exemptions-frequently-asked-questions</p> <p>Controlled interstate border: www.wa.gov.au/organisation/covid-communications/covid-19-coronavirus-controlled-interstate-border</p> <p>FAQ: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/freight-and-logistics-drivers-frequently-asked-questions</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/COVID-clinics</p>
South Australia	<p>Border Information: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions</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>Tas e-Travel: https://arrivals.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx</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>
Australian Capital Territory	<p>Border Controls: www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/travelling-and-transport</p> <p>Travellers from South Australia - Online Declaration: https://act-health.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/4</p> <p>COVID Testing Facilities: www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested</p>
Northern Territory	<p>Border Information: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/quarantine</p> <p>Border Entry Form: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/quarantine#section2</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>