

STATEMENT ON THE 13 JUNE 2023 MEETING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

27 June 2023

The sixth meeting of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Reform Implementation Steering Committee meeting was held via Teams on Tuesday 13 June 2023.

The Steering Committee comprises the following members:

- Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Mr Howard Collins, OBE, A/g Secretary, Transport for NSW (NSW)
- Ms Sally Stannard, A/g Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
- Mr Gary Swain, Deputy Secretary, Transport and Infrastructure, Department of State Growth (Tasmania).

The Steering Committee continues to receive independent advice from:

- Mr Ken Kanofski
- Mr Sanjiv Sathiah, Director, Transport and Infrastructure Policy, Australian Local Government Association.

Consistent with the announcement by The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government that industry representatives would be invited to participate in some Steering Committee meetings, representatives from the Victorian Transport Association, the National Road Transport Association and the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association attended part of the June meeting.

The industry attendees were asked for their views on 'must-haves' for a national automated access system – NAAS (HVNL review recommendation 2.3) and what were the key outcomes they were seeking from a NAAS. The industry representatives were consistent in their comments on the importance of a single national system (they want to see one system across all states with one entry point.) They noted the improvements to freight movements and overall productivity that could be achieved with a harmonised and user-friendly system. They also highlighted the importance of a NAAS being easily accessible from mobile phones and tablets for on-road use.

WSP attended the Steering Committee meeting to provide an overview of the findings and recommendations included in their report on interoperability between different system elements of the NAAS. The report canvasses a range of options and outlines the benefits and challenges associated with each of the options.

The National Transport Commission (NTC) provided their regular update on their HVNL legislative reform program. The key item of note in their report was the approval of the Decision Regulation Impact Statement (D-RIS) at the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting (ITMM) on 9 June 2023. The next steps for the NTC will include taking the agreed D-RIS matters and developing drafting instructions for a legislative amendment bill. They will also focus on the development of a second RIS (tranche 2) for the regulations needed to support the implementation of the reforms. The Steering Committee has asked NTC to provide a detailed implementation plan with clear timeframes to demonstrate how the reforms will be progressed and delivered.

The Steering Committee noted that work is continuing on implementation of HVNL non-legislative reforms and agreed to a risk management framework that will enable areas of concern to be more readily identified. Work is underway on most reforms or is expected to commence soon. Significant investments in streamlining and automating access decisions are well underway in most jurisdictions.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be on 24 July 2023.