

STATEMENT ON THE 17 JUNE 2024 MEETING OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW REFORM IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE

16 July 2024

The fourteenth meeting of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Reform Implementation Steering Committee meeting was held via MS Teams on Monday 17 June 2024.

The meeting was attended by the following members:

- Ms Paula Stagg, First Assistant Secretary, Surface Transport Emissions and Policy, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
- Mr Scott Greenow, A/g Executive Director Freight, Transport for NSW (NSW)
- Mr Dennis Walsh, Chief Engineer, Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
- Ms Denise McIntyre, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of State Growth (Tasmania).

The Steering Committee continues to receive independent advice from:

- Mr Ken Kanofski
- Ms Amy Crawford, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

Representatives from the National Transport Commission (NTC) and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) were in attendance.

The Steering Committee noted progress continues to be made on the legislative drafting process, with the NTC meeting with jurisdictions to confirm the Decision Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) that is anticipated to be provided to Infrastructure and Transport Ministers for consideration in early July 2024.

The Steering Committee noted the target of delivering the HVNL legislative package for Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) consideration by the end of December 2024 remains on track.

The Steering Committee noted at ITMM on 7 June 2024 Infrastructure and Transport Ministers agreed to include recommendations in the Decision RIS relating to providing access for heavy vehicles that are slightly longer and heavier, subject to adequate safety assurances.

The Steering Committee agreed the NTC to convene a Reform Advisory Committee Plus meeting shortly to update members on the progress of HVNL reforms. An industry engagement session will be convened by the Steering Committee once Infrastructure and Transport Ministers have considered the full suite of HVNL reforms.

The Steering Committee noted good progress on non-legislative reforms, in particular the development of the National Automated Access System (NAAS) based on Tasmania's innovative Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS).

Queensland and Tasmania gave the NAAS Oversight Committee a virtual tour of how HVAMS works in Queensland, using Australian Defence Force (ADF) exempt vehicles. This was the first demonstration of HVAMS on the mainland. The Steering Committee congratulated Queensland and Tasmania on the positive work with the ADF on integrating ADF exempt vehicles with the Queensland road network, within the HVAMS.

The Steering Committee also received advice from the NAAS Oversight Committee—comprising of a number of jurisdictions as well as the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and Austroads—reconfirming the shared commitment to a NAAS based on HVAMS.

The Steering Committee noted work on the rapid economic appraisals reform, including work underway across jurisdictions to enhance High Productivity Freight Vehicle access to key freight routes.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 12 August 2024.