



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Skills

Special Minister of State

Member for Murrumbidgee

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA

Chair

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)

Scrutiny@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Hanson

I write in response to comments made by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role) (the Committee) in Scrutiny Report No 9.

Amendments to heavy vehicle national regulations are coordinated by the National Transport Commission in consultation with jurisdictions, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and other stakeholders including police services, manufacturers, industry groups, individuals and the general public.

Enforcement of heavy vehicle national regulations is mostly undertaken by the NHVR. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) transitioned heavy vehicle regulatory functions to the NHVR on 1 July 2019. Other jurisdictions transitioned functions at different times with New South Wales currently progressing transition and Queensland expected to transition services in 2022.

As such, the ACT Road Transport Authority has limited engagement with the heavy vehicle industry or individual operators other than to process registration of heavy vehicles that remains a jurisdictional responsibility.

Most of the amendments brought about by the *Heavy Vehicle National Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021* are relaxations of prior requirements. A number of those relaxations were progressed at the request of manufacturers and industry. Other amendments prohibited fitting tyres with cleats or other gripping devices that may damage roads bringing that requirement into line with the prohibition on fitting those types of tyre to motor vehicles, and minor amendments due to repeal of the (Cwlth) *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989* (MVSA) and its replacement with the (Cwlth) *Road Vehicle Standards Act 2018* (RVSA).

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The NHVR included advice about the prospective changes to the regulations in the 9 February 2021 issue of its *On The Road* newsletter that is emailed to subscribers. The NHVR also provided more detailed advice about the vehicle standards changes on its website through *Vehicle Standards Guide 2* (VSG2). There was a link to VSG2 in the *On The Road* newsletter.

The amendments relating to the repeal of the MVSA and commencement of the RVSA do not have a material effect on registered operators of heavy vehicles. Manufacturers affected by the commencement of the RVSA would be aware of those changes through communication undertaken by the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Yours sincerely

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Transport and City Services
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