



MEDIA RELEASE

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North East truck curfew change a win for business

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) has welcomed a VicRoads decision to increase Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) thresholds that apply to night truck curfews on roads in the north east of Melbourne from 4.5 tonnes to 16.5 tonnes.

The change follows a year-long trial of night curfews on trucks greater than 4.5 GVM operating in the area, which the VTA opposed because it impeded transport operators from doing their jobs by adding to the time and cost of getting between the Eastern Freeway and Metropolitan Ring Road.

As a result of the change, all heavy vehicles less than 16.5 GVM will be able to access affected roads during the 10pm-6am curfew period. Seventy per cent of all heavy vehicles on the road are rigid and less than 16.5 GVM.

“While we would have preferred the elimination of the curfews altogether, increasing the GVM threshold means that fruit, vegetable and cut flower growers, who run smaller fleets and were penalised most by the curfews, can use these roads to get between their farms and the market in Epping in time for trading,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“It means they can have additional time at home resting or to be with their families, and will save money by not having to go out of their way and pay tolls to get to and from the market.”

Mr Anderson said the VTA appreciated the opportunity to participate in the ongoing consultation with community residents and VicRoads during the curfew trial.

“It became quickly apparent that notwithstanding the worse traffic and congestion during the morning peak created by the curfew, noise from air brakes was the major source of angst from the community,” he said.

“While we recommended applying the curfew only to larger trucks with airbrakes, the VicRoads determination to increase the weight threshold to 16.5 GVM is an acceptable compromise that will address resident concerns.

“The real solution will be the construction of the North East Link, which the community overwhelmingly backs as a way of encouraging heavy vehicles onto larger roads. The VTA looks forward to working with the community and other stakeholders as planning for this road begins.”

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For further information, please contact Brian O’Neil on 0411 055 284.