



Victorian Transport Association Update 27th October 2017



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Tax office reinstates previous meal allowance rules

The Australian Taxation Office will reinstate the former Meal by Meal approach used to determine claimable meal expenses for drivers working away from home for the 2017/18 financial year. The decision follows a concerted effort led by the Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation, representing the VTA and the other State Associations, and in conjunction with the ATA and TWU for the previous determination to be overturned. The meal amounts feature in a revised Taxation Determination 2017/19, and follow the approach for Tier 2 country centres by providing the following separate amounts for each meal. Should you have any queries on this matter please contact the VTA's Industrial Relations Adviser Paul Ryan on 03 9646 8590.

VTA highlights planning importance for Victorian Infrastructure Plan

The VTA has welcomed the Andrews Labor Government's release of its five-year Victorian Infrastructure Plan, including the endorsement of 134 of Infrastructure Victoria's 137 recommendations responding to the state's infrastructure challenges. Proper planning must be applied to project delivery to mitigate future gridlock on the state's transport networks. The release of the plan preceded a Productivity Commission report that congestion on urban roads is costing the economy \$19 billion every year, and that if action isn't taken this could blow out to over \$30 billion by 2031. For further information on the VTA's response to the plan, read the media release [here](#).

NTI: Data shows need for extra care on road during October and November

NTI is encouraging operators and drivers to take additional care on the roads in October and November following a review of claims showing a higher frequency of claims during those months. NTI data, including its 2017 National Truck Accident Research Report, shows that, year on year, October and November are amongst the worst months for claims frequency. 2016 saw an increase of over 70% in the number of collision claims being reported for those months. The report is available to review [here](#).

New CityLink lanes open early

CityLink operator Transurban has announced the early opening of all remaining lanes between Bulla Road and Power Street as part of the CityLink Tulla Widening project. The new lanes were progressively opened during this week including:

- A new inbound lane between Bulla Road and Flemington Road
- A new outbound lane between Flemington Road and Bulla Road
- A new inbound lane on the West Gate Freeway between the Bolte Bridge and Power Street

Other new lanes will open as soon as they become available. Operators and drivers are urged to heed new traffic management signage as they become accustomed to the new lanes.

Operators urged to note Camp Road, Campbellfield road closures

As part of the Level Crossing Removal program, operators and drivers are advised of the temporary closure of Camp Road, Campbellfield in October and November whilst works are completed. Road closure details are as follows:

Preparatory works: 26-31 October 2017

Camp Road will be closed between Sydney Road and Northcorp Boulevard:

- 10pm Monday 30 October – 6am Tuesday 31 October.

Major works: 15 November – Monday 18 December

Camp Road will be closed from Sydney Road to Northcorp Boulevard:

- 9pm Wednesday 15 November – 6am Thursday 30 November

Detours for heavy vehicles will be in place during these periods, and drivers are urged to comply with message boards on surrounding roads.

Industry must focus on supply chain value

Peter Anderson reflects on the importance of industry focussing on supply chain value in his October Prime Mover magazine [column](#).

Artcraft highlights benefits of 3M reflective tape

VTA supporter Artcraft is a proud distributor of the highly-acclaimed 3M Reflective Tape and is reminding VTA members of the many safety benefits of using the wide range of tape on fleets. For further information on the range contact Artcraft Branch Manager Warren Passingham on 03 8762 8977

VTA supports School of Hard Knocks fundraiser

Members are reminded of the VTA's support of a fundraising initiative for [School of Hard Knocks](#), a group that builds self-esteem, trust and helps empower students to progress to better health, further education and employment. Members are encouraged to support and attend a special fundraising breakfast event featuring Toll CEO Michael Byrne and Victorian Ports Corporation CEO Rachel Johnson at the Crown Palladium on Thursday, 16 November.

Last chance to book for TWUSUPER Golf Day

The VTA is continuing to accept registrations for the annual TWUSUPER Golf Day on Monday, 13 November at Commonwealth Golf Club. Places remain for those interested in participating so register as soon as possible. The day commences at 11am with a light lunch prior to tee-off, and concludes with drinks in the clubhouse followed by dinner. For further information and pricing download the event [flyer](#). Registration is available [online](#) or by contacting the VTA on 03 9646 8590.

Upcoming events

- [Developing Greater Melbourne Conference](#) – 30-31 October
- [VWMA Breakfast](#) – 8 November 2017
- [TWUSUPER Golf Day](#) – 13 November 2017
- [VWMA Christmas lunch](#) – 1 December 2017
- VTA Christmas Lunch – 8 December 2017

Training programs

- Chain of Responsibility – Managers and Customers – 8 November 2017
- Master Class – Team Development – 14 November 2017
- Chain of Responsibility – Sub-contractor management – 15 November 2017
- Pallet Management for pallet controllers – 22 November
- Transition to Transport – 29 November 2017
- Prescribed Industrial Waste – 30 November 2017, 7 and 16 December 2017

For more details download the flyer at the VTA [website](#) or for the prescribed industrial waste courses download the flyer from the VWMA [website](#).