



Victorian Transport Association Update 8th December 2017



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Port of Melbourne industrial action a “sovereign risk” for Victoria

The VTA has been vocally critical of industrial action at Victoria International Container Terminal over the past 10 days that has virtually shut down the stevedore and prevented trucks from delivering and collecting thousands of shipping containers. In a hard-hitting [statement](#), the VTA has warned the Port of Melbourne risks becoming an international laughing stock if picketing at the site is allowed to continue, and that exposure to sovereign risk is an inevitable consequence of ongoing action, which is impacting operators and the Victorian economy. We urge all stakeholders involved in the action to put the interests of the economy first and work constructively to bring an end to industrial action at the site.

Telematics a focus of national review

The National Transport Commission (NTC) has announced a review of the use of telematics for regulatory purposes across the transport sector to find ways to encourage further uptake and realise safety and productivity benefits. The Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) has directed the NTC to consult with operators, telematics service providers, road agencies, and government certification agencies to help identify opportunities to more effectively harness the benefits of emerging technology solutions, with the focus being on telematics regulated by the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), including the Intelligent Access Program and the Electronic Work Diary. The NTC will submit its report to TISOC during March 2018.

VTA welcomes announcement of North-East Link corridor

As anticipated in the last VTA E-news, the Victorian Government has confirmed its preferred corridor option for the North-East Link. Option A running north-south from the M80 Ring Road at Greensborough and connecting with the Eastern Freeway at Bulleen has been identified as the preferred corridor, with tunnels to comprise around half of the connection's 10-kilometre length. VTA CEO Peter Anderson participated in the Government's announcement of the corridor to provide freight and logistics industry reaction. The VTA [welcomed](#) the commitment for the road to be built, which will provide significant productivity improvements for operators and amenity benefits for residents.

Vale Steve Hutchins

The VTA Executive Council and Secretariat wishes to extend its condolences to family and friends of Steve Hutchins, who passed away recently. Steve spent his working life making the transport industry a better place for all those who worked in it. He was passionate about and committed to the industry and his contribution will forever be remembered by the VTA. Our deepest sympathies go to Natalie and the family at this sad time.

Truck Industry Council reports double-digit sector-wide November sales growth

The Truck Industry Council has reported double-digit truck sales growth in all sectors compared to the same month in 2016. According to the Truck Industry Council, November 2017 sales were the second best on record, exceeded only by the Pre-Global Financial Crisis November result of 2007. 3,630 heavy trucks and vans were delivered last month compared to 3,776 in August 2007, with year-to-date sales of 33,352 tracking 11.5 per cent higher than they were in 2016. Heavy duty vehicle sales dominated for the period, comprising 33.7 per cent of monthly sales, followed by medium duty trucks and light duty trucks. Year-to-date, heavy vehicle sales are tracking up 22.3 per cent over those of the same period last year, with total heavy truck sales to the end of November reaching 10,751.

Fleet Effect advice for claiming additional fuel tax credit for off road use

According to telematics provider Fleet Effect, many transport operators are unaware they can claim up to 14 cents per litre in fuel tax credits (FTCs) for distance travelled off road. With Fleet Effect's help, all of the off-road sites can be geo-fenced with all fuel, kilometres and hours data recorded for the ATO claim. Operators can maximise their off road fuel tax credit by efficiently sending an automatically generated FTC Report to their accountant. Further information about how this can assist operators is available [here](#).

Traffic and roadworks update

Burnley Tunnel closure

The Burnley Tunnel will be closed from 11pm on Saturday 9 December to 7am on Sunday 10 December so that essential routine maintenance can be carried out. Detours will be in place for east bound traffic via the Power Street exit, City Road, Alexandra Avenue, Olympic Boulevard and Batman Avenue to re-enter CityLink.

Beaufort Rail Bridge Upgrades

The Beaufort Rail Bridge on the Western Highway will be strengthened as part of a project expected to take around 12 weeks to complete. During the works, VicRoads advises there will be lane closures, reduced speed limits, traffic management and variable message signs operating. There are no plans close the bridge during the work, however detours will be in place should there be a need to divert traffic. Work is scheduled to start in January 2018.

Upcoming events

- VTA Gold Day, sponsored by Viva Energy; Friday, 16 February, The National Long Island Golf Club

Training programs

- Prescribed Industrial Waste – 16 December 2017
- Chain of Responsibility Safe Loads – 13 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 training](#) page.