



Victorian Transport Association Update 22nd December 2017



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Christmas Greetings from the VTA

The Executive Council and Secretariat of the VTA wishes every member, sponsor and supporter a safe and happy Christmas and every success for the New Year. We appreciate your ongoing support as we advocate for regulatory and legislative changes and improvements to keep operators productive and prosperous. The VTA offices will remain open over the holiday period, other than the gazetted public holidays, should you require any assistance or support. Please stay safe on the roads over the coming weeks, enjoy the festive season with your family and friends, and we look forward to another successful year in 2018.

Barnaby Joyce appointed transport and infrastructure minister

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce has been appointed to the infrastructure and transport portfolios as part of a wide-ranging ministerial reshuffle announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. The VTA [congratulates](#) the Minister on his new appointment, and offer our sincere thanks to outgoing minister Darren Chester, who we enjoyed a close working relationship with, and who was a strong advocate for the interests of freight operators. We look forward to meeting with the incoming minister at the earliest possible opportunity to brief him on matters of interest to our membership.

VTA wins significant concessions on West Gate Tunnel toll arrangements

The Victorian Government has signed contracts for construction of the West Gate Tunnel project, with preliminary works scheduled to start as early as next year. The project will deliver a long-overdue alternative to the aging West Gate Bridge, and a direct connection for

heavy vehicles to the Port of Melbourne. The VTA lobbied hard for financial incentives and concessions for heavy vehicle operators that use the road, and we are pleased that the government and Transurban have listened to the concerns of industry, and have included multi-trip and night discounts and other incentives for heavy vehicle operators using the road. For further information about the future tolling arrangements please review the VTA's recent [media release](#).

VTA welcomes resumption of operations at VICT

Industrial action that shut down VICT's Webb Dock operation for over two weeks has fortunately come to end and trucks are once again able to deliver and collect containers from the facility. The illegal picket co-ordinated by the MUA did enormous damage to Melbourne's reputation as the freight capital of Australia, not to mention significant financial losses right throughout the supply chain at our busiest time of the year. The VTA urges all employers and employee groups to have workplace disputes resolved through established industrial relations systems and practices via the Fair Work Commission.

NHVR releases EWD policy framework

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has released a Policy Framework and Standards for Electronic Work Diaries (EWDs), bringing their establishment a step closer to industry and operators, and possibly as early as March 2018. According to the NHVR, the policy framework and standards will allow the regulator to approve electronic recording systems as an alternative to the traditional written work diary. Technology providers and transport operators are now able to register their intent to develop an electronic recording system for assessment and approval using a Notice of Intent form available on the NHVR website. The NHVR is accepting feedback on the standards in writing before 30 January 2018. Further information is available online [here](#).

VTA congratulates uTenant on market launch

The VTA wishes to congratulate new member uTenant on its formal entry into the warehousing market. uTenant is a property matching platform that aims to help people and businesses that need or have space to connect directly, transforming the way industrial property is leased. The service works by curating a list of properties for registered tenants, both short term and long term opportunities, and then connecting them direct with landlords to negotiate leasing terms. For further information on uTenant and its service offering, visit their [website](#).

Industry to participate in road reform trials

The Commonwealth Government has announced its intention to invite the heavy vehicle industry to participate in a National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot. The announcement – from Urban Infrastructure Minister Paul Fletcher – confirmed industry participants in the pilot program will test replacement of registration fees and the fuel-based Road User Charge, with a national direct user charge for the vehicles participating in the pilot. The pilot will reportedly run through to 2020 and will allow heavy vehicle operators to test, influence and shape a fairer system. The Government will also establish a business case program for location-based trials of distance charging for heavy vehicles. For further information about the trials please refer to the announcement [here](#).

TWUSUPER appoints new alternate director

VTA sponsor and transport industry and logistics super fund TWUSUPER has appointed Michelle Harwood as an alternate director of the fund. Michelle is the Executive Director, Tasmanian Transport Association and is also a director of Transport Women Australia. The VTA is also represented on the board of TWUSUPER as a key employer representative group. TWUSUPER has 123,000 members and more than \$ 5.2 billion in Funds under Management.

Upcoming events

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

Training programs

- Prescribed Industrial Waste – 16 January 2018
- Chain of Responsibility Fatigue Management – 17 January 2018

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.