



Photo courtesy of Fonterra and Volvo Group



## Message from the CEO

Welcome to this fortnight's issue of *On the Road*.

The NHVR has released the latest easy-to-read heavy vehicle combination chart.

The new *PBS Vehicle Configurations Chart* shows 32 common combinations approved under the PBS scheme.

It comes with a new booklet *PBS: A guide for road managers* to assist road managers to make decisions about network access and understand the benefits of these innovative vehicles.

The assessment process for PBS vehicles is often complex and can take road managers longer than the required 28 days to complete.

This can be frustrating and costly for operators. Therefore, it's important that the latest information is available to make decisions about which vehicles can safely access local roads, intersections and bridges.

The chart is the fourth in the NHVR series, including *Classes of Heavy Vehicle chart*, *Common Heavy Freight Vehicle Configurations chart* and *Variations of Buses chart*.

For more information check out [www.nhvr.gov.au/publications](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/publications)

**Sal Petrocchio**  
CEO, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

## PBS seminar targets access

The NHVR is hosting a PBS seminar for engineers representing almost 70 Australian road managers.

NHVR Chief Engineer Les Bruzsa said the seminar would assist road managers with the assessment process for some of Australia's most innovative, high productivity vehicles.

"PBS vehicles will make up almost one-in-five vehicles manufactured in Australia this year," Les said. "The PBS fleet is highly innovative, with many modern safety features and different performance characteristics.

"Because they are different, they can be

complex to assess, so it's important that road managers have all the information to make the correct decisions.

"This seminar will provide access decision-makers with comprehensive information on how to best manage their local freight tasks as well as tools to encourage the uptake of high-productivity vehicles on their networks.

A report into Australia's PBS fleet released in May showed there were 16,000 separate PBS registered trucks, trailers and buses, making up 7500 PBS combinations currently operating.



Photo courtesy of Muscat Trailers

## Expert to conduct PBS tyre standards review

The NHVR has appointed independent engineering expert Dr John de Pont to lead a review of PBS tyre standards and operations.

NHVR Vehicle Safety and Performance Manager Peter Austin said the review would provide a clearer picture about tyre standards.

"We will look closely at the available testing methods used by tyre manufacturers and suppliers, considering that these methods can produce differing results," Peter said.

"We will also look at the effects of tyre characteristics on safety performance, key tyre

performance parameters, the performance of truck tyres currently available in Australia and the effects of tyre designs, tread patterns, case types, sizes, materials and operating conditions.

According to the Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia, the review of PBS tyres is a priority.

"PBS is an innovative world leading scheme designed to improve safety and productivity but industry feedback is that the treatment of tyres could be better," CEO Todd Hacking said.

# PBS A-doubles between Port of Brisbane and Toowoomba



PBS A-doubles are now running between Toowoomba and Port of Brisbane.

The new Queensland notice will eliminate the need for permits for PBS A-doubles operating at masses up to 79.5t (GML) or up to 81.5t (CML).

A PBS A-double seeking to operate up to 85t (HML) will still require approval through the NHVR Portal before operating under the Notice.

The vehicle must be manufactured in compliance with, and certified under, a PBS vehicle approval and it must comply with specific axle spacing and mass requirements.

Operators must also comply with all conditions under the notice, which includes GPS tracking, on-board mass monitoring and vehicle signage.

For more information visit [www.nhvr.gov.au/state-notices](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/state-notices)

## Safety Policy open for comment

The NHVR's draft Safety Policy is open for comment until 5 November.

NHVR Productivity and Safety Executive Director Geoff Casey said the Safety Policy would align with the NHVR's expanding operational role in heavy vehicle safety.

"We have outlined our vision for heavy vehicle safety as part of our *Setting the Agenda 2016-2020* strategic document, and this policy is another important step toward realising this vision," Geoff said.

"The Safety Policy reinforces the NHVR's commitment to safety and outlines the guiding principles we apply in developing and administering our regulatory framework.

"These principles include continuously improving safety outcomes, focusing on risk and evidence-based activities, a commitment to engagement and encouraging innovative safety management practices including the use of technology.

"This policy is intended to promote an environment of continuous improvement."

The Safety Policy will be available for comment until 5 November at [www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-policy](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-policy)

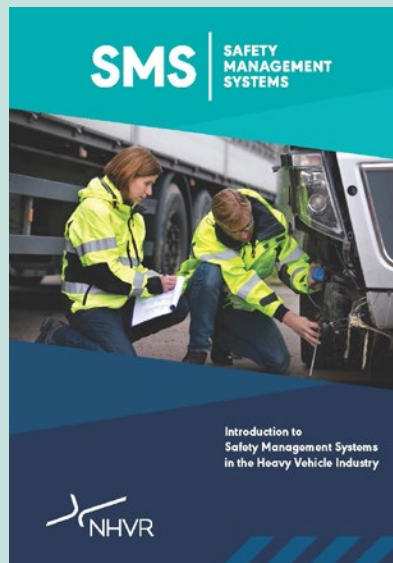
## Upcoming CoR info sessions

Have you reviewed your safety systems following changes to Chain of Responsibility laws that started 1 October?

The NHVR will hold the following industry information sessions during November to explain the changes to CoR, the impact on your business and how a Safety Management System can help you effectively manage your operation's safety risks.

- Brisbane – 15 November
- Melbourne – 20 November
- Sydney – 21 November

Sessions are free. For more information or to register for a session visit [www.nhvr.gov.au/cor](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/cor)



## NHVR Portal – NSW training

Want to update your skills and learn to apply for access permits using the NHVR Portal?

The NHVR will host up-coming Portal training sessions in Muswellbrook (23 Oct) and Tamworth (24 Oct).

The free sessions will assist operators on how to submit an application for Class 1 and 3 heavy vehicles.

Be quick, just 15 spaces a session available.

To register, please [click here](#).

## NHVR Portal – Rego module

Heavy vehicle operators can learn more about accessing details on their registered assets in the new NHVR Portal – Registration Module.

Sessions will be held from 2pm (AEST) on October 26, November 2, 9 and 16.

This online session will cover how to check your details, how to check changes and forecast registration renewals and costs.

All sessions are free.

To register, please [click here](#).



**1800 931 785**

Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Line

[www.nhvr.gov.au/HVCRL](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/HVCRL)

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