

TOWARDS A NATIONAL OPERATING STANDARD FOR HEAVY VEHICLES ENSURING OPERATORS HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN A HEAVY VEHICLE

Australia's Heavy Vehicle National Law should:

- encourage and embrace the use of technology for safety and access purposes; and
- ensure operators have suitable safety management systems in place and the capital necessary to ensure the safe operation of heavy vehicles.

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) believes these goals can be enhanced through the incorporation of a national operating standard for heavy vehicle operators into the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).

An important element of the standard is that the operator can prove to the satisfaction of the NHVR that a nominated amount of capital is available to the business.

Maintenance has been found to be one of the discretionary expenses cut by some operators to make ends meet.

The community must have confidence that heavy operators have available the funds to undertake regular and appropriate vehicle maintenance.

The enabling legislation could be modelled on NSW laws¹ requiring accredited bus and coach operators to be able to prove they have access to capital so that vehicles can be maintained.

Conclusion

The creation of a National Operating Standard offers the opportunity to enhance the safety and productivity outcomes of heavy vehicle operators – key objectives of the HVNL.

The opportunity should be taken to make these amendments to the National Law and to make the legislation fit for the 2020s and beyond.

¹ Section 10 of the *Passenger Transport (General) Regulation 2017*(NSW)