

Question on Notice

No. 100

Asked on Tuesday, 4 March 2014

MR HOPPER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the NHVAS update dated 8 February 2014, where it states that ‘NHVAS instruction set in place, a six month transitional period’, yet in the following paragraphs it states warnings for all first offenders will commence from 10 March 2014—

Why isn't the transitional period actually 6 months across everything, as operators were led to believe?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Condamine for the question.

The transitional arrangements to which the Member refers were issued by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and relate to the carriage of certain documents by drivers of heavy vehicles operating under the mass and maintenance modules of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme.

In response to the concerns of industry, on 25 February 2014 the Transport and Infrastructure Council of Ministers agreed that the Heavy Vehicle National Law needed amendment to remove this unnecessary regulatory burden on drivers and operators of these accredited heavy vehicles.

Following this meeting, the National Transport Commission was tasked with preparing amendments to the national law to remove the requirement for heavy vehicle drivers to carry mass and maintenance accreditation documentation. I am advised that this drafting process has already commenced.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's office have since issued new instructions to State and Territory Road Transport Authorities not to enforce those provisions of the national law against drivers or operators in relation to the carriage of documents for mass and maintenance accreditation that will be the subject of amendment.

On 5 March 2014, the Regulator communicated this advice to industry via a media statement and an industry update to NHVR newsletter subscribers. This information is publicly available on the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/news/2014/03/05/accreditation-paperwork-burden-removed-from-drivers-and-operators>