

Question on Notice

No. 149

Asked on Thursday, 6 March 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how successful the transition to National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has been for the Queensland transport industry?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Lockyer for the question.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator commenced full operation under the Heavy Vehicle National Law on 10 February 2014. The Regulator has taken over responsibility for key functions providing industry with the benefits of one national rule book under the National Law. These functions include management of vehicle standards modifications and exemptions, the Advanced Fatigue Management risk classification scheme and national compliance activities through service arrangements with participating jurisdictions. The Regulator has also been administering the Performance Based Standards and the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Schemes since January 2013.

Shortly after commencement it became clear that the Regulator was not fully prepared to take over all road access permit business from all participating jurisdictions simultaneously. In response to concerns raised by some sections of the trucking industry Queensland decided to quickly assist the Regulator by accepting a temporary delegation from 19 February 2014 to take back the processing of intrastate applications for some categories of complex access permits.

This means that operators applying for oversize, over-mass and special purpose vehicle trips that are solely conducted in the state of Queensland can apply directly to the Department of Transport and Main Roads for this delegated period. The department is also working with police and local governments to facilitate timely approvals and is now up to date with all permit applications. For all other access requests, including for other vehicle classes and interstate travel, operators will continue to apply through the Regulator.

Industry has been very appreciative of the actions taken by Queensland and Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia have followed suit by mirroring the delegation approach shortly after Queensland, leaving the Regulator better placed to manage the processing of interstate access permit applications.

Queensland and other jurisdictions are now working with the Regulator to develop a detailed plan to transfer permit processing back to the Regulator to ensure a smooth transition for industry. I have not put an end date on the interim permit processing arrangements. Queensland will hand this function back to the Regulator when the department is satisfied that service standards will be maintained for industry.