

Heavy Vehicle National Law Review

The National Transport Commission is conducting a first-principles review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) on behalf of Australia's transport ministers. The goal is to deliver a modern, outcome-focused law for regulating heavy vehicle operations in Australia.

Issue

- The current HVNL provisions do not adequately address the level of fitness, health and wellbeing of drivers. Driver health is known to increase the risk of driver fatigue.

Policy options

Option-8.6 Driver medical standard

- A driver medical standard could apply a medical fitness monitoring regime in a manner similar to that applied in rail. It would be drawn from the same medical base as Assessing Fitness to Drive and initially apply to drivers working for certified heavy vehicle operators.
- The medical standard could specify:
 - criteria and testing for periodic health assessments
 - criteria and testing for triggered health assessments
 - options to manage medical and health conditions of drivers to reduce risks.

Option-8.7 Right to stop

- Drivers could have a right, protected in law, to stop at the soonest safe opportunity if they are not fit to work - for example, if they become fatigued or unwell while driving.

Option-8.8 Driver self-assessment

- A requirement could be placed on drivers to self-assess and declare their fitness to work at the start of a shift, and an obligation to ensure they do not continue driving if their fitness deteriorates to an unacceptable level during the course of a shift. This could be in the form of a driver health checklist.

Read more

- You can read more about:
 - option 8.6: National health assessment standard in the [RIS](#) and [HVNL 2.0](#)
 - option 8.7 Right to stop if deemed not fit for duty in the [RIS](#) and [HVNL 2.0](#)
 - option 8.8 Driver self-assessment and declaration of fitness to work in the [RIS](#)

Have your say

- The NTC will continue to engage with stakeholders providing opportunities to help finalise the HVNL reform options.
- Make a short submission. Tell us what options you prefer, least prefer and why on the [HVNL microsite](#).