

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 16 August 2013

NHVR new permit system 'bites' from 1 September

***CICA calls for wider industry education before regulatory enforcement
of the new heavy vehicle access permit system.***

The Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA) is the national voice of the crane industry. Led by President John Gillespie CICA has been an active stakeholder in discussions with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) including meetings, correspondence and inviting the NHVR to present at the CICA Conferences.

In recent months the NHVR has been getting the 'One Regulator - One Rule Book' message out to industry regarding the new heavy vehicle access permit system applying from 1 September 2013. On the 17 May the NHVR reported the Government backing for the 1 September start date. "Since last year, CICA has been alerting members through the CICA Newsletters of the approaching new system," noted Alan Marshall, the CICA Chief Executive Officer. "Following up the NHVR July and August 'On the Road' Newsletters, this week the NHVR has released further and detailed communications to industry to prepare them for the changes and the new national system," said Alan. "There has been a flood of information issued by the NHVR this week which CICA has passed on to all members and state associations, adding to the perceived information over-load, I am sure," added Alan.

"In the long run, having a national permit system will be better for our industry," stated Alan. "Therefore CICA has been a supporter of the proposed national system. However, the challenge now is to support our members and the wider industry deal with what many will regard as the sudden impact of the new system. Understanding and dealing with the change from the known local state requirements to the new national system requirements will be difficult initially," remarked Alan. CICA participated in the NHVR webinar held earlier today and there was recognition of the value of a transition period applying.

"education before enforcement"

"CICA believes the best way forward is to seek further education and support for the industry to familiarise themselves and step up to the new system. And CICA is keen to play a supporting role working with the state associations. I have spoken with each of the State Association Presidents this week. Many of our members are small businesses, who are busy meeting their customer needs and making a living. Permit delays will damage their business. Of course keeping track of the daily emails and industry information is not easy for them," highlighted Alan. "Hence, CICA's recommendation to the NHVR and state authorities is to apply 'education before enforcement'. CICA is hopeful that the NHVR has got the national system fully tested and ready to go and will adopt a phase-in for the necessary enforcement - all of which would make a strong statement that the authorities are keen to continue to work with the industry, not against it," noted Alan.

For further information on the NHVR new heavy vehicle access permit system refer to www.nhvr.gov.au

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