



Coronavirus update #4

The NSW Government continues to support freight movements and the supply of goods as a high priority in its response to Coronavirus as some restrictions around the state begin to ease.

Measures to help reduce the spread of Coronavirus are still being enforced in NSW through public health orders issued under the *Public Health Act 2010*. Gatherings for the purposes of or related to transportation continue to be listed as essential. All industry operators should continue to follow NSW Health guidelines for hygiene and safety, including physical distancing.

Both the NSW Government and the Commonwealth have various support measures in place to assist businesses impacted by the Coronavirus and links are available on our [TfNSW freight coronavirus page](#). Transport for NSW has also brought forward a number of infrastructure and maintenance projects as part of stimulus funding announced in the NSW Government's COVID-19 package.

The impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on the freight and logistics industry has been an important agenda item at many of our formal industry meetings, including the Freight and Logistics Advisory Council, the Road Freight Industry Council, the Port Transport, Logistics Taskforce, the Port Botany Rail Optimisation Group and the Rail Freight Industry Group. We've also been working closely with our rail network operators and rail operators, as well as other parts of industry across the supply chain outside of these formal meetings. Transport for NSW has been able to progress a number of actions to assist industry following feedback received in these forums. While our meetings are increasingly returning to business as usual considerations, we will continue to collaborate with industry as part of the Freight Branch's ongoing response to the Coronavirus and as we look to move towards recovery.

NSW ports and airports

NSW ports and airports remain open for freight imports and exports and Australian Border Force advice supports vessels and aircraft arriving in Australian ports, subject to meeting specified criteria.

Maritime freight

A person arriving in NSW on a vessel from a port outside of NSW must not disembark unless authorised to do so by the Commissioner of Police or in an emergency. An exemption remains in place for maritime crew and landside workers to undertake a number of essential tasks in and around vessels at NSW ports. Transport for NSW continues to work with government in relation to the implementation of the National Cabinet agreement on the transit of maritime crew and we will update you when further information is available.

Air freight

The Transport for NSW Freight Branch is working across government to identify opportunities for exporting high value NSW produce to existing and potential new markets by air, as well as ensuring the air freight sector is recognised for its role in the import of urgent medical supplies for NSW.

NSW roads and rail

Freight into and within NSW is still permitted to move freely. While border restrictions remain in place for a number of other jurisdictions, freight is recognised as essential and can cross those borders. Remember to plan your trip ahead of time by visiting www.livetraffic.com which includes advice and contact details for border crossings. Please also be mindful that as more people return to work and school, we are seeing an increase in cars on NSW roads and passengers on public transport. We anticipate this will increase further with the lifting of restrictions on regional holiday travel from 1 June.

Heavy vehicle rest areas

All our Transport for NSW rest areas remain open and available, and we continue to maintain these regularly. Please report any vandalism or maintenance issues at these facilities to the Transport Management Centre on 131 700. Rest area locations can be found on our [TfNSW Rest Area Map](#), where you can also find a link to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's map of commercial facilities which is updated regularly.

Higher Productivity Vehicle permits

Transport for NSW has been working with local government and industry to assess and provide Higher Productivity Vehicle (HPV) permits where appropriate. Access for longer more productive vehicles to a number of key distribution centres in Western Sydney facilitates more efficient deliveries to supermarkets and reduces the number of truck trips on NSW roads. We are continuing to work with industry to identify and assess other opportunities to improve road freight efficiency in line with the Heavy Vehicle Access Policy Framework.

Freight prioritisation on the Sydney rail network

The Transport for NSW Freight Branch and Sydney Trains are continuing to work closely with rail operators to identify opportunities to prioritise rail services carrying essential goods as per the amended Operations Protocol. Since use of the enhanced priority for freight began in March, there has been a four-fold increase in decisions to advance freight trains through the Sydney Trains network. This includes the movement of grain trains to ensure the supply of grain for production into food items and as ingredients to make hand sanitiser and other pharmaceutical products.

Further information

For more information on what Transport for NSW is doing to support the freight industry visit the [Transport for NSW freight coronavirus page](#). To subscribe to this update, email freight@transport.nsw.gov.au