

Our reference:

31 May 2024

Heavy Vehicle Access Policy team
Transport for NSW
NSW Government

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: SUBMISSION FROM TEMORA SHIRE COUNCIL – HEAVY VEHICLE ACCESS POLICY

Temora Shire Council would like to thank the NSW Government for the opportunity to comment on the draft NSW Heavy Vehicle Access Policy.

Council acknowledges the commitment of the NSW Government to respond to the needs of the transport industry, which is focused on achieving efficiencies in operations, increasing productivity, and responding to changing market demands. Whilst this policy approach responds to the demands of the freight industry of increasing payloads with larger vehicles, and reducing operating costs in relation to fuel, driver and vehicle costs, this efficiency appears to be at the expense of Council owned infrastructure, safety in access and local community amenity.

Council in particular highlights the implications of the implementation of this policy for Temora Shire:

- Impact upon the quality of Council maintained roads, with the increased payload and vehicle length further adversely impacting upon the condition of Council roads, at a time when Temora Shire is already constrained in the delivery of maintenance and renewal of existing roads, due to increasing costs, budget constraints, impacts of several natural disasters and labour shortages,
- Safety and amenity impacts on the main shopping precinct of Hoskins Street, in Temora, with the negative impacts upon local residents, visitors, and business owners, which under the draft policy, will result in heavy vehicles up to 60 metres long negotiating pedestrian crossings, roundabouts and vehicles reversing out of parking spaces. In addition, the impacts of effluent from even larger livestock trucks adversely impacting upon the social amenity of the shopping and outdoor dining precinct used by both local residents and visitors,
- Safety issues with several major freight delivery points and routes in Temora Shire, particularly the GrainCorp site on Old Cootamundra Road, already having unsatisfactory access points for heavy vehicles using these routes under a permit scheme. Increasing vehicle lengths from 30m to between 42m and 60m will be wholly inadequate when existing route and grain receipt site access is already unsatisfactory.

Temora Shire Council has been very supportive of the NSW Government's Performance Based Standards (PBS) approach, and the Farm Gate Access Program, which has delivered an acceptable balance of heavy vehicle efficiency in operations with increased in heavy vehicle size and payload. However, the draft policy appears to be focused only on further efficiency and benefits to the transport industry, without consideration of the impacts upon local government infrastructure and community amenity.

Temora Shire Council supports the intention of Transport for NSW to achieve efficiency in operations in the heavy vehicle freight industry, however these efficiencies should not be at the expense of the safety and amenity of rural communities and the local road infrastructure that is maintained by local Councils.

Temora Shire Council requests a response from Transport for NSW to address how the impacts upon local government infrastructure and local communities are considered and addressed as part of the draft policy. Temora Shire Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss the draft policy further with the Heavy Vehicle Access Policy team, in order to share our local knowledge of the local community and local infrastructure, which are impacted under the draft policy.

Councillors were advised of the draft NSW Heavy Vehicle Access Policy via email and a report was considered at the May Council Meeting. The resolution of Council aligns with the concerns raised by Council staff members.

I attach a copy of this email advice to Councillors, Council report and resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned on 6980 1100.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Boxall

GENERAL MANAGER