

20 May 2026

National Transport Commission

Via website:

Public submission – Implementing a forward-looking cost base

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the National Transport Commission's (NTC) Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on Implementing a Forward-looking Cost Base for Heavy Vehicle Charges.

We commend the significant contributions of the NTC, transport agencies and industry associations over the past years in addressing the issue of the revenue gap between expenditure on roads and heavy vehicle charges.

The NHVR is supportive of opportunities that foster a fairer, and more stable and transparent charging structure for heavy vehicles. However, as Australia's regulator for heavy vehicles, we are also cognisant that changes to the charging framework may indirectly impact business sustainability, resilience and broader safety and productivity outcomes across the heavy vehicle road transport sector. In the current economic climate, characterised by rising input costs, tight operating margins and limited capacity to absorb additional cost increases, there is a risk that additional changes may compound financial pressures across the sector, particularly for smaller and regional operators.

As such, we recommend consideration be given to ensuring cost recovery objectives are balanced appropriately against the growing affordability pressures facing the heavy vehicle industry.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Safety and Productivity Officer