

17 July 2018
Our Reference: CCF/56 30370

Mr Paul Retter AM
Chief Executive and Commissioner
National Transport Commission
Level 3, 600 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Retter

Consultation Regulation Impact Statement: Safety Assurance for Automated Driving Systems

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission as part of consultation on the Safety Assurance for Automated Driving Systems: Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) recently released by the National Transport Commission (NTC).

As you would be aware, the NHVR has been an active participant in the Autonomous Vehicles Reference Group operated by the NTC since its formation. The NHVR recognises the potential safety and freight productivity improvements that connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs) may offer the Australian community. To ensure these benefits have the best opportunity to be realised, the NHVR supports the introduction of a regulatory framework that manages the risks this new technology may pose, while striking a regulatory balance that encourages this technology to come to the market and promote its use.

In-principle, the NHVR supports the NTC's recommended approach to a regulatory framework that is a legislated safety assurance system supported by a primary safety duty (option 4).

The NHVR notes that due to the uncertainty of how CAV technology development and adoption may vary, the RIS needed to be prepared using very high level assessment, and making a number of assumptions. In order for the scale of benefits that were predicted in the RIS to be realised, particular attention will need to be given to how the relevant legislation is drafted. However, if endorsed by Ministers, the assessment undertaken will be an invaluable tool that will be able to be used to resolve policy issues that arise during drafting.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the leadership and continuing work that the NTC is undertaking in the area of CAV regulation and preparing Australia for this new emerging transport technology.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Greg Fill, Director Safety Standards on 07 3309 8543 or by email to greg.fill@nhvr.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Casey
Executive Director Productivity and Safety