

29 May 2019 - Submissions received via email to HVNLreview@ntc.gov.au

The Inner West Council Local Government Area (LGA) in inner Sydney experiences significant through movements by heavy vehicles accessing Port Botany and Sydney Airport as well as dive sites associated with the construction of major infrastructure projects. These heavy vehicles pose significant safety risks as well as adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbourhoods and review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law to consider a risk-based approach needs to achieve the following:

- Defined safety goals especially for pedestrian and cyclists
- Vehicles fitted with best practice safety equipment
- Ongoing driver training
- Minimised impacts on road infrastructure and street amenity

The size of vehicles operating on urban streets needs to be reduced and manoeuvrability needs to be improved allowing Local Government to implement traffic-calming designs which make streets safer for vulnerable road users. Improved direct vision and reduced driver height are especially important for heavy vehicles as the blind spots of a conventional truck and trailer can hide a bicycle lane or the entire width of a pedestrian crossing at intersections. The potential for crashes needs to be proactively reduced by imposing curfews and reduced speed limits in urban areas and the use of motorways by heavy vehicles needs to be incentivised.

Last year the European Union adopted training requirements for drivers with both a theoretical and practical component and the HVNL review needs to take a similar approach by requiring drivers to update their skills with regular training.

In addition to the above Council staff administering applications for the use of Local Roads by heavy vehicles have outlined the need to consider the following:

1. That every application be accompanied with vehicle turning movement plans prepared by a professional traffic engineer.
2. That Council be able to charge application fees and any additional professional services to process and investigate a particular NHVR request.

If you would like to discuss these issues please contact Kendall Banfield, Strategic Transport and Infrastructure Manager, via email on Kendall.Banfield@innerwest.nsw.gov.au or 02 9335 2179

Inner West Council

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Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.