

Harvest 2011-12

With a predicted above-average harvest well underway in NSW, related transportation issues are once again a potential for concern. Related information, points of contact and NSW Government policy are provided below. If you have experienced issues which other Members should be aware of, or would like further information on any transport matters, please contact transportation policy advisor Dave Lee on (02) 8251 1819 or leed@nswfarmers.org.au.

Registration of Vehicles

Primary Producer Concession

The primary producer concession lowers the motor vehicle tax payable. For vehicles over 4.5 tonnes GVM, the primary producer concession limits payment to the lesser of:

- the reduced motor vehicle tax charge (PPG – primary producer), or
- the national charge (PPGN – primary producer seasonal, national charges) determined by the National Transport Commission.

Seasonal Registration

Although registration for all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes can be paid on a quarterly basis, only seasonal registration allows registration for three month periods, in order to coincide with harvest seasons. The length of registration varies with the length of the season and can be up to two three monthly periods (quarters) or one six-monthly period in any 12 months. The inspection process to register heavy vehicles solely for seasonal use varies from the normal heavy vehicle inspection requirements.

Conditional Registration

The conditional registration scheme allows certain vehicles that do not comply with the construction and equipment requirements of the Australian Design Rules (ADR's) and Vehicle Standards, limited access to the road network to perform specific functions. This does not include heavy vehicles. For more information including what agricultural vehicles are covered and the fees please go to

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/registration/conditional_registration.html

Registration Exemptions

Agricultural equipment such as irrigating equipment, augers, conveyors, harvester fronts and harvest bins - towed by a vehicle can be exempt from registration. Conditions of use, such as the requirement for bins to be empty, must be met.

Oversize Vehicles

Grain Augers

Some minor exemptions for the movement of augers were introduced in October 2011. Full details, including limitations to rear overhang and total length throughout NSW are outlined in the notice:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/permitnotices/class_1_grain_auger_combination_exemption_notice_2010.pdf

NSW Farmers is seeking an amendment to this notice to allow auger combinations up to 35 metres in length and a rear overhang maximum of 60% instead of the current 53%.

Comb Trailers

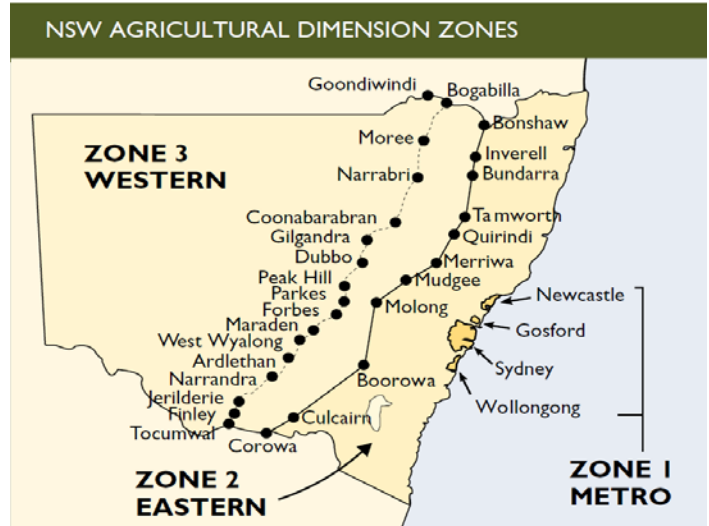
Even though a comb trailer is currently considered exempt from registration, it must still comply with trailer construction and roadworthy standards (ie brakes, lights, reflectors, markings, tow couplings etc) if used on a road or road related area.

Christmas/New Year Period Travel Restrictions

From sunset on Thursday 22 December 2011 until sunrise Wednesday 4 January 2012 significant travel restrictions are in place. Full details are available on the RTA website at:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/2011_xmas_oversize_travel_-_agricultural_vehicles.pdf

NSW Farmers recognises the importance of safe roads over these periods, but continues to push for a more balanced approach to ensure that harvested crops can be transported in a timely manner.



Source: Roads and Maritime Services

Association Work

The following document provides a summary of the key issues raised with the Minister for Roads and Ports in May 2011:

http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/71371/Duncan_Gay_Meeting_May_2011_Briefing_Note.pdf

RTA Restructure

On 1 November, the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority was replaced by NSW Roads and Maritime Services. For further information on this change please see:

http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/newsevents/downloads/minister_releases/111101-rmservices.pdf

Relevant NSW Roads and Maritime Services information

- General 13 22 13
- Heavy Vehicle 1300 364 847
- Primary Producer <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/info-primary-producers.pdf>
- Oversize Vehicles <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/primprod-oversize.pdf>
- Heavy Vehicle Mass, Loading and Access <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/heavyveh-mass0706.pdf>