

## FREIGHT PRODUCTIVITY

### Commitment sought

**\$300 million per year** for local governments to improve freight productivity on their road networks and support the implementation of Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms.

### What is the issue?

With additional funding, councils can help support the implementation of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms which have been agreed by Transport Ministers.

### Why does it matter?

The effective implementation of Heavy Vehicle National Law Reforms is vital to increasing Australia's productivity, and local roads are an integral component of Australia's freight network.

### Additional information

Councils manage around 77 percent of Australia's roads by length and play an important role in authorising heavy vehicle access on local roads.

In late 2022, the Infrastructure Transport Ministers (ITMM) endorsed a Heavy Vehicle Reform Package based on the advice of an independent advisor, Ken Kanofski, who recommended a commitment to reducing access permits for restricted access vehicles by 50 percent in three years and by 90 percent in five years.

This is achievable through the delivery of a new automated road freight access system for restricted access heavy vehicles, similar to the Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS) which has been successfully implemented in Tasmania.

Local government has an integral role to play in the development and roll-out of this new system, and a new funding program would support councils to prepare for the transition and improve first and last mile infrastructure that will deliver productivity gains.

ALGA is seeking a commitment of \$300 million a year for four years that will:

- Support councils to implement a new national heavy vehicle automated access system including network pilot projects in 2023/24;
- Provide route and asset assessment support to councils to better understand the condition of infrastructure to enable better-informed access decisions;
- Provide capability building and data collection support to councils to enable them to align with national data standards and prepare their systems to integrate with the automated national heavy vehicle access system; and
- Support fixing, upgrading and maintaining key freight route infrastructure identified by councils and the heavy vehicle sector to support increased productivity on first and last-mile council freight networks across all jurisdictions including the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

*This funding will ensure that pavement quality, bridges and culverts can support freight movements by better assessing their capacity, and through pre-approved online permits, without the need for manual assessments, ensuring that freight moves more freely across local road networks, and supporting Australian businesses to grow.*

