

FACT SHEET

Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme Amendment Bill 2013

The purpose of the Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme Amendment Bill 2013 is to amend the *Traffic Act 1925* (“the Act”) and the *Heavy Vehicle National Law (Tasmania) Act 2013* to rectify administrative oversights arising from the Transport Commission’s administration of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme.

These oversights became apparent during the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources’ preparation to implement the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator reforms in Tasmania.

The Bill principally contains corrective actions in relation to the collection of accreditation fees and the granting of accreditation for certain periods of time.

- The Transport Commission had been charging an ‘application fee’ of \$66 for entry to the Tasmanian scheme without it having been prescribed by regulation as required by the Act.
- Part VII of the Act provides for the Transport Commission to grant membership to approved alternative compliance schemes, subject to higher compliance. The approved accreditation schemes in Tasmania are mass management and maintenance management, which enable accredited operators to increase transport efficiency by reducing the costs of compliance and by allowing Scheme members greater flexibility because of regulatory concessions in the management of their transport business.

The Transport Commission had granted accreditation predominantly for periods of 2 years, contrary to 3 years as stipulated under the Act.

The Bill validates the collection of the application fee for entry to the Tasmanian Scheme and the granting of accreditations for a period of two years.

The Transport Commission has contacted current accredited operators, recently lapsed accredited operators (at the time the administrative oversights was identified) and advised them that their accreditation period is now three years and issued those operators with new certificates that show the correct accreditation period.

New applicants have been advised that the application fee will be billed by DIER when legislation is in place.

The new arrangements will come into effect on the date the Bill receives Royal Assent.