



# AUSTRALIAN FOREST CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

ACN 102 865 430

## Manager

David Drane

PO Box 242, Morwell Vic, 3840

[david.d@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:david.d@vic.australis.com.au)

Ph : 0413 997 257

## Chairperson

Colin McCulloch

[bvllogging@commander360.com](mailto:bvllogging@commander360.com)

03 5751 1922

## Viability Consultant

Col Shipard

[colshipardafca@bigpond.com](mailto:colshipardafca@bigpond.com)

0428 215 882

## “The Log”

5 April 2011



Hello and welcome to another weekly edition of “The Log”, the Australian Forest Contractors Association Ltd’s own internal electronic Newsletter for all of our Members and Corporate Partner Sponsors.

\*\*\*\*\*

Firstly this week, as we have often mentioned in this publication, a new independent National Heavy Vehicle Regulator responsible for regulating all heavy vehicles in Australia (i.e vehicles with a mass over 4.5 tonnes) will become operational in 2013.

As promised in last week’s edition, following my attending a forum on the progress of its introduction, we will have a more detailed look at this new organization.

### What does the national heavy vehicle regulator (NHVR) aim to achieve?

The introduction of the NHVR will reduce the compliance burden for businesses (great for small businesses), improve safety and productivity, and make it easier for businesses to operate across state and territory borders.

#### It aims to achieve:

Efficiency: A common set of laws for heavy vehicles for all States and Territories

Safety: A national safety monitoring and reporting system dedicated to heavy vehicles

Productivity: The ability to provide quick responses to changing industry trends

Services: A single point of contact for all heavy vehicle regulation in Australia

Independence: The NHVR will be an independent Statutory Authority

Compliance: A unified compliance strategy across the country

Registration: A national heavy vehicle registration system



**FOREST  
CENTRE**

SUPPLIERS OF FOREST  
EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

### Some examples of the activities of this new Regulator will be

Collecting vehicle registration fees and issuing exemptions and authorizations

Monitoring compliance with the law and working with enforcement agencies to ensure a nationally consistent approach to enforcement

Instigating actions when contravention occurs  
Monitoring and promoting best practice  
Promoting industry participation to achieve the objective of improved objectives and services

One of the features of the new law requires both the buyer and seller of a vehicle (truck) to notify the Registration Authority when a vehicle is sold



AFCA believes that anything which is introduced and results in improvements in compliance and reduced administrative burdens on our members is a good thing and we will keep you informed as the introduction of this new organization occurs. The aim of a level playing field with equality for smaller operators (us?) is to be applauded

\*\*\*\*\*

Unfortunately some States are not as strict with their Laws relation to heavy vehicles and in particular vehicle safety as others are, and it is hoped that the introduction of this new Regulator will go some way towards improving this situation. However in some States despite there being less enforcement, there are still some practices which many operators believe are more practical and should be looked at for introduction (perhaps with some modification) at a national level.

Of major concern nationally however is still the area of driver fatigue, and records released at the forum I attended show that although there is a reduction in the numbers of drivers being caught at the wheel with alcohol in their system, the number of infringements involving drugs, drivers falling asleep at the wheel and generally working longer hours is on the increase.



Thanks to the National Transport Commission for the use of their material in the preparation of these articles

\*\*\*\*\*

AFCA notes with regret, the resignation of Trevor Wait the long time Timber Training Coordinator at Forestech East Gippsland TAFE in Victoria. We are sure that there are many in our industry who have been part of training courses conducted or facilitated by Trevor. He is off to a new position as a safety officer in Queensland.

We wish him well in his new position and thank him for his contribution to our industry.

\*\*\*\*\*

In last weeks "Log" we told you about the release of the Prospectus for AusTimber 2012 and the opening of "earlybird" registrations.

Another way of finding out what is happening at the event is to make sure you read your monthly edition of "Australian Forest & Timber News" and "Timberman" magazines.



As the official media partner for the event again, the publishers of both of these publications are making sure that the latest news about what is happening at AusTimber 2012 is featured each month.



**JOHN DEERE**  
Nothing Runs Like A Deere

And of course both magazines are printed on paper that comes from trees harvested and transported as part of our industry.



So for the latest news and pictures of the planning and preparation for AusTimber2012 make sure you look out for the articles in each months editions.

AFCA members receive "Australian Forest and Timber News" free each month as part of their membership, and we thank them once again for their support of our organization.

\*\*\*\*\*

Preliminary notice to our members in Western Australia. Our next members meeting in W A will be in Bunbury on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011. More information will follow, but for now, please put this date in your diary, and we hope to see as many members as possible attend.



\*\*\*\*\*

And finally, something that has got nothing to do with forestry. I'm sure that all of our members either have children of their own or know someone who has a son or daughter who is good at sport and is selected to represent his or her area at either state or national championships or competitions.

We all know what a financial burden that often places on the family through the cost of traveling to and from the event and the accommodation bill that comes with it.



In some States there are usually one off annual funding grants that can be applied for, but these are usually hard to find out about end even harder to apply for. But, did you know that your local Federal Member of Parliament administers a funding grants program in their local electorates specifically for this purpose?

"Local Sporting Champions" is a program from the Australian Sports Commission that is designed to help junior sportspeople offset the costs of training and traveling to competitions. The funds are allocated by the local Federal Member who has a local panel of people who help him or her select the recipients each quarter. I am part of this panel in my local electorate. Funding is available for both teams and individuals to apply for.



**INSURANCE ADVISERNET AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED**  
AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL SERVICES LICENCE NUMBER: 240549  
ABN 81 072 343 643  
Proudly Australian Owned and Operated  
www.insuranceadviser.net



So next time someone you know is selected to compete at state or national competitions, encourage them to contact your local Federal politician and apply for some of the funding. If the application is successful, the funds could go a long way towards ensuring that you give the young person the help they need to ensure their participation. Unused funding only goes back into Government coffers. Help to make sure it is all used.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, that's all for this week. Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "The Log". We hope you all have a safe and profitable week and we look forward to bringing you some more news from our industry again next week.



Regards to all  
David Drane

