

Road Transport (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Amendment Bill 2000

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Road Transport (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Act 1995* and the *Road Transport (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Regulation 1996*:

- (a) to revise the charges payable for registration and renewal of registration of heavy vehicles, in line with the charges developed by the National Road Transport Commission, and
- (b) to provide for the indexation of those charges and heavy vehicle permit charges in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index, subject to any determination by the Minister of a lesser increase.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on 1 July 2000.

Clause 3 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Road Transport (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Act 1995* set out in Schedule 1.

Clause 4 is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Road Transport (Heavy Vehicles Registration Charges) Regulation 1996* set out in Schedule 2.

Schedule 1 [3] and **[7]** give effect to paragraph (a) of the objects outlined above. The items amend and replace certain definitions in clause 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Act and replace the tables of registration charges set out in Part 2 of that Schedule. The new registration charges reflect those determined by the National Road Transport Commission on the basis of the cost of road usage.

For most heavy vehicle types the new charges represent no increase or only marginal increases. However, three types of heavy vehicles are subject to greater increases in charges and certain classification changes, namely B-doubles, Six axle truck and trailer combinations operating above 42.5 tonnes and Special Purpose Vehicles.

The charges relating to B-doubles are increased to reflect the greater number of, and use of, B-doubles. Six axle truck and trailer combinations operating above 42.5 tonnes will now be classified under a higher category of charges. Special Purpose Vehicles are currently classified as either Type 1 or Type 2 with differing registration charges depending on that type. Under the new charges Type 1 will be divided into two categories—Type P (plant) that will include plant vehicles such as backhoes, tractors, graders and Type T (truck) that will include trucks such as cherry pickers, mobile cranes and concrete pumps.

Schedule 1 [4]–[6] and **[8]** and **Schedule 2 [1]** and **[2]** make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1 [2] gives effect to paragraph (b) of the objects outlined above by replacing section 9 of the Act. The new section 9 provides for the indexation of charges by a mechanism based on the Consumer Price Index. The charges are only indexed for any given financial year if, before the start of that financial year, the Australian Transport Council (which is comprised of the Transport Ministers for the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories) consents to that indexation.

Schedule 1 [1] and **[2]** make consequential amendments to sections 7 and 8 of the Act.