

Question on Notice
Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe)
Inquiry into Speed limits and road safety in regional NSW

Asked on 8 September 2022

The Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety (Staysafe) asked the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—

QUESTION:

At the Public Hearing—Inquiry into Speed limits and road safety in regional NSW, Thursday, 8 September 2022, Ms Shelley Hancock MP queried whether the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) provides input into the design of new roads, upgrade of older roads, and the design process to be undertaken when constructing new highways.

ANSWER:

The NHVR does not have a direct statutory responsibility for the design or provision of infrastructure. However, the NHVR is responsible for the safety of heavy vehicle access on public roads and can provide valuable insights to road owners on strategic design, network planning and upgrades to support improved freight safety and productivity outcomes.

As outlined in the NHVR's Heavy Vehicle Safety Strategy 2021-2025, the NHVR will seek involvement in and provide input to network policy decisions particularly relating to accommodating use by heavy vehicles. The NHVR is of the view that design standards should be progressively and suitably updated to provide access to modern vehicles that are safer, more productive, and better for the environment. Most recently, the NHVR provided input to the Princes Highway Upgrade and the Queensland Inland Freight Route.

The NHVR also provides advice to road transport agencies on the availability and quality of facilities that play an important role in assisting heavy vehicle drivers to get proper rest and manage their fatigue requirements.