



Submission: Impacts of Heavy Vehicle Reform Interim Report

- The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Productivity Commission's request for advice on the Impacts of Heavy Vehicle Reform under the National Competition Policy.
- LGIRS recognises the importance of heavy vehicle transport to Australia's economy and supports reforms intended to lift transport productivity and facilitate the uptake of heavy zero-emissions vehicles.
- LGIRS also notes that local governments within Western Australia own and manage a significant proportion of Australia's road network and will play a critical role in the practical implementation of any heavy vehicle reforms.
- Through ongoing engagement with local governments, LGIRS is aware of persistent challenges relating to the condition, maintenance, and renewal of local road networks, particularly in regional areas.
- Local governments in regional and remote areas in Western Australia are responsible for managing extensive and dispersed road networks while having fewer ratepayers than metropolitan councils. This limits their capacity to absorb additional infrastructure and maintenance costs arising from increased heavy vehicle access.
- LGIRS considers that reforms intended to increase access for higher productivity and heavier vehicles have the potential to accelerate deterioration of local road assets. This may result in increased road maintenance and asset preservation costs for local government, as well as additional administrative and planning burdens associated with access management, compliance, and infrastructure planning. These impacts are not always fully captured in national-level analysis and modelling.
- LGIRS notes the importance of considering the infrastructure, funding, and resourcing implications of heavy vehicle reform for local governments.
- LGIRS recommends that both metropolitan and regional/remote local governments are consulted as this work progresses, including during the development of the interim and final reports. Local governments are well placed to provide practical insights, data, and case studies to support evidence-based analysis, particularly in relation to road condition, maintenance requirements, and funding pressures.