

# Media Release

**The Hon Melissa Horne MP**  
Minister for Ports and Freight  
Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
Minister for Health Infrastructure



Friday, 6 February 2026

## IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY TO KEEP FREIGHT MOVING

The Allan Labor Government is slashing costs and driving productivity for Victorian freight operators by rolling out a new automated permit system for heavy vehicles.

The new Heavy Vehicle Structural Assessment Permit System (HVSAPS), uses advanced digital technology to automate up to 85 per cent of structural assessments for Class 1 and Performance-Based Standards (PBS) vehicles – eliminating the need for most manual bridge and culvert assessments.

The technology will dramatically reduce wait times for freight operators – cutting approval times from up to six months to days – while slashing costs that can reach up to \$20,000 for manual assessments.

Removing these fees, which applies to all heavy vehicle combinations except superloads, will benefit a wide range of freight vehicles that previously faced longer assessment times due to their size variations.

The *Victorian Freight Plan 2025-30: Victoria Delivers*, supports modernising processes like HVSAPS and making use of smart technologies to support and manage heavy vehicle operations.

With the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) assisting with the processing of relevant permits, transport operators can use HVSAPS for Victorian state roads through Australia's heavy vehicle portal, NHVR Go.

This new system is an initiative of the Labor Government's Business Acceleration Fund and recognises the importance of freight and logistics, which contributes \$36 billion to Victoria's economy and employs more than 240,000 Victorians.

### Quote attributable to Minister for Ports and Freight Melissa Horne

*"By using smart technology, we're delivering faster, more efficient outcomes across the supply chain that puts Victoria at the forefront of freight reform."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Finance Danny Pearson

*"We're backing the freight industry, cutting red tape and improving the efficiency and productivity of our heavy vehicle operators."*

### Quote attributable to National Heavy Vehicle Regulator CEO Nicole Rosie

*"The NHVR is proud to support its partners in helping to create a more seamless and integrated experience for industry, and we will work with operators to ensure they are assisted through the new permit process to achieve the best efficiency and productivity outcomes."*