



3 September 2021

Jessica Moore
Public Service Association
Via email jmoore@psa.org.au

Dear Ms Moore,

I refer to our meeting of 1 September, also with Mr Ian Braithwaite, Mr Tim Smith, Ms Alison Phan, Ms Julia Duda, Mr Ray Jenkins and Mr Peter Farrell, where we discussed the proposals outlined in your letter of 19 August relating to COVID-19 measures concerning Compliance Operations Inspectors.

As discussed, there have been extensive developments with respect to the Public Health Orders in recent days. Notably, commencing 6 September 2021, Authorised Workers from the Local Government Areas ('**LGAs**') of concern will not be able to leave their LGA for work unless they have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or evidence of a medication exemption to COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccination rate overall for NSW citizens has also significantly increased and is continuing to increase over the coming weeks as the Government is actively encouraging the community to get vaccinated and making vaccines available.

Transport for NSW continues to assess the situation and explore measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure to our people and customers. The Unions, including the Public Service Association, continue to be engaged in these discussions through the COVID Peak Union Consultative Forum where cluster wide matters can be explored.

With Compliance Operations Inspectors (COIs), in line with the discussions before the Industrial Relations Commission on 16 August 2021, the following has been undertaken:

1. Priority Vaccination for COIs

Transport had written to the Ministry of Health to seek approval for priority COVID-19 vaccination for COIs. Information will be shared when a response is received from NSW Health.

As you would be aware Transport is actively encouraging staff to get vaccinated, including providing flexibility for a vaccination appointment and two-hour payment for each vaccination.

2. Inspection at closest station

Heavy Vehicle registered operators have been encouraged to use their closest Heavy Vehicle Inspection Station for registration inspections and, for those in declared LGAs under a Public Health Order, which will include any of the stations within those declared LGAs. Further information can be found at [Book a heavy vehicle inspection | Service NSW](#)

In relation to the PSA's proposals outlined in your 19 August letter, some of these matters have already been addressed through the Safe Work Method Statement ('SWMS') which were made available through the Commission's proceedings. The Work Health and Safety processes remain the appropriate forum for these issues to be considered given that they may vary from site to site. It is encouraged that matters be raised at the local level and assessment undertaken through the WHS process.

Further to our discussion at the meeting of 1 September, I can advise of the following:

1. Vaccination for COIs

Priority Pfizer vaccination appointments are available for all Authorised Workers aged over 16 living in local government areas (LGAs) of concern. This includes COIs living in an affected LGA. Information was disseminated to all Transport staff on 28 August 2021, which was also cascaded to COIs.

Employees in regional NSW can book their vaccination through their local hospital, pharmacy or vaccination clinic.

Further information on LGA's of concerns including regional and rural area is available at [Priority vaccination for authorised workers | NSW Government](#)

2. QR Code check-in at multi-lane sites

Transport is giving consideration to the utilisation of a COVID Marshall to assist with QR check-in at multi-lane sites, including Wetherill Park, Penrith, Botany, and Carrington. This will be reviewed on a site by site basis in consultation with staff.

3. Closing of office doors

The issue of closing office doors was previously explored during the assessment of the relevant sites. With the exception of the Penrith facility, the outcome of these assessments did not support the closing of office doors as an improvement to safety measures at the time.

In relation to the PSA's concern regarding the risk of airborne COVID-19 transmission, this is a cluster-wide matter as it would affect various groups of staff across the cluster. Transport IMT continues to assess these matters and hold regular discussions with the Unions at the Peak Consultative Forum. Implementation of cluster-wide safety measures will be led by the Transport IMT.

4. QR check-in for on-road inspection

Implementation of QR check-in for on-road inspection is currently being progressed. It is anticipated that this will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

5. Cleaning of buses prior to inspection

This is already being undertaken with respect to the vast cases of HVIS Inspections. Transport will contact local public passenger bus fleet operators regarding the cleanliness and sanitisation of passenger areas prior to presenting for HVIS inspections. Transport will also provide advice on the website to remind operators to ensure that buses are cleaned upon being presented for HVIS inspections.

6. Drivers not QR coding in

Transport already requires drivers to QR code in before entering HVIS site, there is signage on buildings setting out this requirement. QR check in is a requirement for entry.

7. HVSS- notification of Positive cases- check intercept history

It is a current practice at HVSS sites that drivers QR code in when they exit the vehicle. If a positive case had been in a HVSS site, the QR information would assist with contact tracing and a notification would be received.

Notwithstanding, this issue has been raised with Transport IMT to explore with Health's contact tracing team regarding HVSS and roadside intercept.

8. Inspectors reluctant to sign SWMS

It is noted that all SWMS were developed using the normal WHS consultation process prior to approval. If there are specific issues, the employees/PSA are encouraged to provide them to Transport for consideration.

9. HVSS Screening lane templates

Adjustments to the template have been completed.

Updates on the progress of these matters will be provided to you in due course. If you have any further questions, Ms Alison Phan, Senior Manager, Employee Relations would be pleased to take your call on 0439 543 813.

Yours sincerely



Brett Patterson
Director, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Compliance