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ANOTHER WORLD FIRST FROM TCA: HEAVY VEHICLE NETWORK NAVIGATION

Transport Certification Australia (TCA) has joined VicRoads and Teletrac Navman in launching a world first in heavy vehicle routing and navigation, at the 23rd ITS World Congress in Melbourne.

This initiative, which has emerged from the Industry Framework for Road Freight ITS and Intelligent Systems, announced by the Victorian Minister for Roads, Road Safety and Ports, the Hon Luke Donnellan MP in February 2015, will commence next month on Victorian roads.

For the first time road attribute information – which is collected and managed by VicRoads through its vast information asset databases – will be made available to telematics providers through the National Telematics Framework.

This will allow in-cab route guidance systems to incorporate this information in providing more informed driving information to the diverse range of heavy vehicle combinations utilised on Australia's road network to improve route efficiency, improved load management and route compliance.

TCA Chief Executive Officer, Chris Koniditsiotis, said "TCA has led the development of this initiative by working collaboratively with the Department of Premier Cabinet and VicRoads. This unique initiative has been achieved through cooperation between the road agency, technology developers and the transport industry – and would not have been achieved on its own."

This achievement has been made possible through the *National Telematics Framework*, which was created to enable a sustainable approach to the use of telematics and related intelligent technologies in Australia.

TCA's work demonstrates the need for road and transport agencies to not only make road attribute data available, but to make it available in a standardised format which can be adopted consistently across the country, and by all telematics providers.

"It may surprise some that route guidance systems which cater for the diversity of heavy vehicle combinations does not yet exist in Australia – let alone any part of the world.

"Australia not only has one of the world's most complex and variable networks, but supports the operation of a diverse range of heavy vehicle combinations throughout the country.

This initiative means that the routes approved for heavy vehicle use need to be tailored to each vehicle."

"With the release of this jurisdictional data VicRoads has set the benchmark for other road agencies" Mr Koniditsiotis said.

Victorian Transport Association (VTA) Chief Executive Officer, Peter Anderson said "We strongly encourage other jurisdictions to follow VicRoads' leadership in providing data for in-cabin systems, so that drivers can have access to a guidance system that directs them to approved routes."

Teletrac Navman customer and Managing Director of Kelvin Baxter Transport, Kelvin Baxter has been a vocal advocate for the introduction of this capability. He said "My colleagues

and I have been asking for this for a long time and it is great to see it finally happening."

Andrew Rossington, Vice President, Transtech, said "This initiative is an important step in opening up the road network to be fully utilised by transport operators for improved safety and productivity. We are very pleased with our contribution to this important telematics development."

TCA can also announce that it has now:

- Commenced work with road and transport agencies from other jurisdictions to release road attribute data for heavy vehicles.
- Established a nationally consistent approach for the provision and maintenance of data from road managers, as part of the *National Telematics Framework*, to ensure heavy vehicle route guidance systems – like that offered by Teletrac Navman can be relied upon by heavy vehicle drivers nationwide.

The need to establish consistent, national outcomes, is where TCA will allow this initiative to be advanced into other jurisdictions.

"This initiative highlights how we can achieve better public outcomes through a different engagement process. By listening to what the industry needs and facilitating the outcome, TCA has started a process which will have a huge impact on the use and function of road network data for benefit of all road users," said Mr Koniditsiotis.

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Background Info

Heavy vehicles operating on our roads have restrictions in the form of permits, height and length of the vehicle, bridge weight limits, roundabouts, low height limits and more. Currently the road network and restrictions are only available as view only maps; there are no tools that interactively allow a driver to route using the road network that is available to their vehicle type. This means that the navigation systems built for cars cannot be used effectively by trucks and the navigation systems which have a 'truck mode' only account for some of the restrictions.

With the data provided from VicRoads, Teletrac Navman has built Smartnav, an application that coordinates road jurisdictional data, mapping & location information, navigation functions and regulatory-based road networks (such as crane networks, Higher Mass Limits (HML) or B-Double networks).

To view the Smartnav video please follow the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf6n5cspZbc&feature=youtu.be>
