

# The Road-Train Network in the North West of Victoria



## What changes have been made to the existing road train network?

In 2011, VicRoads expanded its Road-Train network in the North West of Victoria to include Red Cliffs, Hattah, Robinvale, Piangil and Ouyen. Road-Trains operating on this network were limited to 79.5 tonnes and 4.3 metres high.

Under VicRoads' new policy the following changes have been made:

- The network has been expanded to include Swan Hill;
- The maximum mass for Road-Trains has been increased to 85.5 tonnes;
- Road-Trains transporting livestock will be allowed to operate at 4.6 metres high as long as they comply with the New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme;
- The operating conditions for Road-Trains have been brought in line with the conditions that apply in New South Wales; and
- An updated and comprehensive Road-Train network has been published on the VicRoads website.

## Why have these changes been made?

The bulk of Road-Trains operating in the North West of Victoria either originate in New South Wales or service transport companies in that State. Consequently, by harmonising operating conditions and mass and height limits with those allowed in New South Wales we are improving cross border consistency while also reducing the red tape for operators in both States.

## What is the difference between the green and orange roads on the VicRoads map?

As illustrated below, the majority of the approved roads on the Road Train network are marked as orange. This is because the operator requires a permit to access these roads.

The limited number of roads marked as green are located in Mildura and adjoin the New South Wales border. These green roads are covered in Schedule 4 of the [National Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Road Train Authorisation \(Notice\) 2014](#) and therefore access to this small network does not require a permit.



## Can I operate a Road-Train with a tri-axle dolly or a B-Triple on this network?

Access is currently limited to Road-Trains with a tandem-axle dolly. VicRoads will however consider A-Double with a tri-axle dolly, B-Triple and AB-Triple access on a case by case basis. This may include the following:

- A full route assessment, especially if the combination has a swept path that is worse than a 36.5 metre A-double;
- A bridge assessment of the combination; and
- The fitment of a GPS device that complies with the Intelligent Access Program (IAP). **(This does not apply to an A-double with a tri-axle dolly if they are operating at General Mass Limits (GML) or Concessional Mass Limits (CML).**

## What are the specific mass limits and axle spacings?

The mass limits for Road-Trains operating on the network are as follows:

- Steer Axle – 6.0 tonnes
- Steer Axle – 6.5 tonnes (where the tyre section width is at least 295mm)<sup>1</sup>
- Steer Axle – 6.7 tonnes (where the tyre section width is at least 375mm)
- Drive Axle or Tandem Axle Group (Dolly) – 16.5 tonnes (General Mass Limits)
- Drive Axle or Tandem Axle Group (Dolly) – 17.0 tonnes (Concessional or Higher Mass Limits)
- Tri-Axle Group – 20.0 tonnes (General Mass Limits)

<sup>1</sup> If the tyre section width is less than 295mm the steer axle may still be 6.5 tonne as long as the prime movers meet the conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the *Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Regulation*.

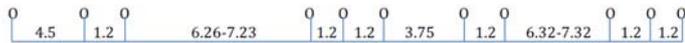
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- Tri-Axle Group – 21.0 tonnes (Concessional Mass Limits)
- Tri-Axle Group – 22.5 tonnes (Higher Mass Limits)
- Overall – 79.5 tonnes (General Mass Limits)
- Overall – 81.5 tonnes (Concessional Mass Limits)
- Overall – 85.5 tonnes (Higher Mass Limits)

- The road train displays a “road train” warning sign at the front and rear.

In relation to axle spacings, the combination must meet the following minimum and maximum axle spacings to safely cross all the structures on the network (the figures are in metres):<sup>2</sup>



## Do I need a permit to operate a Road-Train on this network?

As noted above you need to obtain a permit for access to the orange roads. Class 2 heavy vehicle permits can be obtained from the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#).

## What are the specific dimension limits?

The dimension limits for road trains operating on the expanded network are as follows:

- Maximum Length – 36.5 metres
- Maximum Height – 4.3 metres (for combinations **not** transporting livestock)
- Maximum Height – 4.6 metres (for livestock combinations – see conditions below)
- Maximum Width – 2.5 metres

## What about rail level crossings on the network?

The network features a number of active rail level crossings including those at Ouyen, Managatang and Swan Hill.

In line with the *Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983*, heavy vehicles that exceed 26.0 metres in length require a permit before they are allowed to cross a rail level crossing.

## What are the operating conditions on the expanded network for livestock and non livestock vehicles?

Road-Train operators transporting livestock under the expanded network must provide proof that the company and driver are enrolled in the [New South Wales Livestock Loading Scheme](#).

Consequently, prior to operating the combination, the registered owner must obtain a permit from the Over Dimension Load team as part of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. Applications stating the length of the Road-Train and the time of day(s) of the journey must be sent to [odlpermit@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:odlpermit@ecodev.vic.gov.au). Please be aware that applications can take up to **five days** to process.

For Road-Train combinations that do not transport livestock, the following conditions apply (These are in line with New South Wales Type 1 Road Train policy):

- When operating at Higher Mass Limits (85.5 tonnes), the road train is fitted with a GPS device accredited under the Intelligent Access Program (IAP);
- When operating at Higher Mass Limits, the road train (prime mover and trailers) is accredited under the Mass Management module of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme;
- When operating in excess of 20.0 tonnes on a tri-axle group, certified Road Friendly Suspension (RFS) is fitted to the road train;
- The road train does not exceed a speed of 90 km/h or any lower speed limit applying to the route;
- The drawbar length on the road train is not less than 3.0 metres; and

For more information please contact the following number – (03) 8392 7720. (More information can also be found at the [Department's website](#)).

<sup>2</sup> If the combination has an axle spacing that is less than those stated above or exceeds the maximum trailer limits of 7.23 metres and 7.32 metres a bridge assessment will be required.