1. The Bill amends the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012* (HVNL) to improve safety and productivity in the heavy vehicle transport industry.
2. The HVNL amendments are part of an ongoing national review and maintenance process, with amendments being made to implement the following nationally agreed reforms:
* strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers;
* increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint; and
* transferring load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the HVNL.
1. The investigative and enforcement powers amendments comprise the third and final phase of reforms to HVNL chain of responsibility and executive officer liability provisions. These amendments will assist the prosecution of HVNL breaches by providing authorised officers with additional powers to gather information from a person who is not an executive officer or a party to the chain of responsibility. These information gathering powers will be confined to information relevant to chain of responsibility offences.
2. There are many heavy vehicles carrying lighter-weight loads that are currently operating at less than their maximum mass limit. There is the opportunity to permit these vehicles to be physically larger and so increase their freight volume, but still remain under their legal mass limit. This increase in productivity will not be at the expense of road safety or road infrastructure.
3. To clarify obligations for industry, enforceable load restraint performance standards are to be removed from the Load Restraint Guide and placed in the HVNL. This would reduce industry’s confusion about precisely what is a load restraint obligation, by ensuring the Load Restraint Guide is exclusively guidance only.
4. The Bill would also insert a Queensland specific provision into the Act to allow the election of a court location for fatigue related offences. Court proceedings could be commenced in either a Magistrates Court district in which an offence occurred, or in the Magistrates Court district in which the offence was detected.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*
* [Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)