



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 19/06

South Australian Border Restrictions Lifted

Travel restrictions for South Australia have been lifted for those arriving from the Northern Territory, Western Australia and Tasmania.

While the change applies for travellers coming into SA, it will be up to the other states to decide whether similar arrangements will apply for South Australian residents travelling interstate.

Changes include:

- Travellers entering SA from the NT, WA and Tasmania are no longer required to self-quarantine for 14 days
- Those currently in quarantine who have entered directly from NT, WA and Tasmania can end their quarantine from midnight 16 June, regardless of how long they have been in SA.
- Essential travellers must keep and retain records of close contacts for a 14 day period commencing on the date of their arrival in SA.

South Australian Roadmap to Recovery

From today indoor limits and restrictions have been adjusted ahead of the move to Step 3 on 29 June. This means:

- A maximum of 300 people may gather at a venue.
- Any separate room or area may have a maximum of 75 people (subject to the 1 person per 4 square metre rule).
- Physical distancing measures should still be followed. Aim to keep 1.5 metres away from other members of the public.

It is expected that Step 3 will remove indoor limits entirely, while maintaining social distancing requirements of 1.5 metres between members of the public and the rule of one person per 4 square metres.

We are watching these developments with interest and will keep you informed as further restrictions are eased.

Meetings with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

On Tuesday, I participated in a NHVR stakeholder engagement meeting via Zoom which was well attended by industry, government and MTA members. The NHVR provided an update on compliance activities in South Australia, detailing roughly 9,600 intercepts resulting in 2,000 offences which included 744 fatigue and 840 various mechanical related offences.

Last week in Parliament, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Hon Stephan Knoll MP announced that the State Government will investigate additional options for heavy vehicle roadworthiness compliance in consultation with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and SAPOL and in response to the review of national regulations by the National Transport Commission.

This remains a key issue for the automotive industry in South Australia and I raised the MTA's concerns that stage one change of ownership inspection are moving to DPTI locations only, such as Regency Park.

Following on from these discussions, I have scheduled meetings with NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio early next week to discuss reform at a national level, followed by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure.

Skilled Migration

The Department for Innovation and Skills recently sought input from the MTA, as a member of the Migration Advisory Council, on South Australia's general skilled migration program and how it relates to the automotive industry.

In developing a response we consulted with members who have previously engaged with MTA on the topic of skilled migration, and I thank those members for their time and valuable input. The general view of members was that while they had found skilled migration to be a valuable source of workforce supply, the costs and red-tape were prohibitive and required review.

Water Bill Reductions

From 1 July and following a State Government review, every single business across South Australia will pay less on their water and sewerage bills with an average saving of around \$1,350 a year.

In the current economic climate these changes are welcome and we hope they will help to reduce your cost of doing business.

Divisional Update

The MTA's 'new normal' has meant a return to our business as usual including face to face divisional meetings held at our offices in Wayville, South Australia.

With social distancing in place, we have had good turnouts at our Towing and Service Station division meetings, with phone and video attendance made possible through Microsoft Teams. If attendance at Wayville has been difficult due to distance or business activity, I encourage you to join via Microsoft Teams, which has proven a successful way to participate in Divisional and Zone meetings/

MTA Divisional meetings remain valuable forums to raise issues faced by our industry and your business. With the new constitution in place, upcoming AGMs will see the election of a chair and deputy chair to sit on the MTA's Industry Advisory Council, playing an important role in shaping our policy priorities.

On that note, I'd like to congratulate John Hitchcock and Ralph Scutella for being elected the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Towing Division, and John Antoniadis and Andrew Perry for being elected Chair and Deputy Chair of the Service Station Division.

Key dates for our upcoming meetings are below:

- 24 June 2020 - Hills and Murraylands Zone AGM
- 1 July 2020 - South East Zone AGM
- 14 July 2020 - Automotive Repair and Engineering Specialists Division AGM
- 15 July 2020 - Automotive Dealers Association Division AGM
- 21 July 2020 - Eyre Peninsula Zone AGM
- 22 July 2020 - Tyre Dealers Division AGM
- 22 July 2020 - Independent Bus and Coach Operators Committee Meeting

We hope to see and hear from you at our upcoming Division and Zone meetings.

Enjoy the weekend.

Regards

Paul Unerkov

MTA SA / NT CEO

