



## FACTSHEET 19

## HEAVY VEHICLES

Heavy vehicles play an essential role in transporting goods throughout Australia and heavy vehicle traffic is predicted to grow by 50% by 2030<sup>1</sup>. The inclusion of safety technologies such as lane departure warning, autonomous emergency braking, driver fatigue technologies, side underrun protection, blind spot detection and enhanced direct and indirect vision in heavy vehicle fleet purchasing policies could significantly increase the safety of heavy vehicles in regional and remote areas both for heavy vehicle occupants and for road users with which they may collide<sup>2</sup>.

## Implementation considerations

Some of the above listed technologies can be inexpensive and practical to install; however, they must meet Australian Design Rules requirements.

Refer to Transport for New South Wales' *Safety Features and Technologies for Heavy Vehicles* booklet for an extensive list of truck safety technology. Approximately half of the listed technologies can be retrofitted to trucks<sup>2</sup>.

Consider improving driver and passenger comfort and ergonomics to reduce fatigue. Simple but effective interventions such as additional mirrors, Fresnel lens, noise absorbing close-cell foams and padding, heavy barrier layers in mats and insulation, and even cooling fans with low-noise design may assist with improving driver comfort<sup>2</sup>.

Facilities to install and maintain truck safety technology also needs to be considered.

## Effectiveness

If all heavy vehicles were fitted with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) fatal heavy vehicle crashes would be reduced by 25%<sup>2</sup>.

If all heavy vehicles were fitted with Lane Departure Warning (LDW) fatal heavy vehicle crashes would be reduced by 6%<sup>2</sup>.

If all heavy vehicles were fitted with Electronic Stability Control (ESC) fatal heavy vehicle crashes would be reduced by 4%<sup>2</sup>.

## Target road user groups

Heavy Vehicles

## Target behaviour

Speeding, fatigue, lane drifting, loss of vehicle control

## Inter-pillar link

Safe Roads - Wide centerlines, Safe Roads - Speed signs, Safe Roads - Road surface quality

<sup>1</sup> Budd, L., Newstead, S. and Watson, L., 2021, VSRG research program: An analysis of heavy vehicle safety performance in Australia, Clayton, Vic: Monash University Accident Research Centre.

<sup>2</sup>Transport for NSW, 2020b, Safety features and technologies for heavy vehicles. Haymarket, NSW: Transport for NSW, Centre for Road Safety.



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