



Welcome to Tanker Talk October 2023 – Celebrating 40 years

Looking towards an alternate fuels future



As the National Bulk Tanker Association celebrates its 40th year, this week we looked to a future of zero emissions and what the next 40 years might hold for the industry.

At two major events, held this month, the ATA's TMC and the VTA's Alternate Fuels Summit operators, suppliers and truck OEMs all shared their commitment to a zero emissions future. What is clear is that the long-haul heavy road freight poses the greatest challenge for current zero emission options such as hydrogen and battery electric vehicles, with the upfront cost and range of these vehicles being the limiting factor. Burning alternate fuels such as hydrogen and e-fuels such as HVO are considered low emission only (99.95 % at the tail pipe due to oil burn) but are a ready solution with higher fuel costs still the key driver.

The path forward will depend on the freight task but the commitment from industry is strong with one demonstration of this being Viva Energy delivering the industry leading Geelong hydrogen refueling station, made possible through \$22.8 million funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency

(ARENA), and the first step towards a network of hydrogen refuelling stations reaching from Geelong and Melbourne to Sydney and Brisbane.



Source: Viva Energy

Permanent axle mass limit increase for low and zero-emission vehicles

"It's not a trial"



Source: Power Torque

Victoria has announced a **permanent** axle mass limit increase for **low and zero emission** vehicles. The keywords here are **permanent** and **low emissions**. This

means its not a trial, providing certainty to operators that commit to these vehicles that the increase will not be taken away.

The announcement was made on yesterday by Victorian Minister for Ports and Freight, Melissa Horne at the Freight Decarbonisation Summit, hosted by the Department of Transport and Planning.

This recent announcement by Victoria follows previously announced trials in NSW, QLD and SA.

The announcement is backed by a Low and Zero Emission Heavy Vehicle (LZEHV) access map. The new low/zero emissions road network will allow Volvo heavy-duty electric trucks to operate under a pre-approved, three-year permit with a 7.5-ton steer axle weight concession on these routes.

Spotlight on safer roads



The NBTA and its members believe safety is paramount and whether it's DG, dairy, chemical or water we promote safer drivers, vehicles and roads. Our safety focus includes working with road managers to identify high risk routes and locations.

The South Gippsland Hwy near Foster, Victoria has come under the spotlight with members reporting dangerous road conditions due to severe 'flushing' reducing the surface friction. The dangerous road conditions along this section have led to near miss incidents. The NBTA has escalated this requesting urgent action to rectify the situation and bring the road to standard. In the meantime, we urge members to be aware and manage the risk accordingly.

Further to this the NBTA expects to announce a new initiative that will proactively identify near misses and prevent more serious incidents from occurring.

AGM – 30 Nov 2023



DATE: Thursday 30 November

TIME: 12pm for light lunch

AGM commences 1pm and closes 4pm

VENUE: [VTA Head Office - Mirrat, Level 1/46 Kooronga Wy, Port Melbourne](#)

Click below and register your attendance for this event.

Register your attendance at the AGM

THURSDAY 30 NOV

NBTA Annual Christmas Dinner

JOIN US FOR THE
NATIONAL BULK TANKER ASSOCIATION

Annual Christmas Dinner

NOVEMBER
THURSDAY **30** AT 6:30 PM
OLD MELBOURNE GAOL, 377 RUSSELL ST

[Buy your tickets now](#)

The NBTA Annual Christmas will be held on a **Thursday night**, following the NBTA AGM and quarterly meeting.

DATE: Thursday 30 November

TIME: 6:30pm

VENUE: [377 Russell St, Melbourne VIC 3000](#)

Dress: Suitable for your last supper.

Entry via the courtyard. Canapes and pre-dinner drinks served from 6:30pm.

Private Guided Tours of the Old Melbourne Gaol will be included as part of the evening.

Buy your tickets for what will be another memorable occasion at this unique and historic venue.

Regards,

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National Bulk Tanker Association

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