



# Maintaining the rules governing the land transport of dangerous goods

Bulk Tanker Day

Paul Davies, Project Director – Reform Maintenance

30 September 2015



# NTC drives national transport reform

- National Transport Commission (NTC) is an inter-governmental agency whose mission is to: champion and facilitate changes that increase productivity, safety and environmental outcomes
- We develop national policy, regulatory and operational reform for Australia's road, rail and intermodal transport system.



# NTC maintenance

- National laws
  - Heavy Vehicle National Law, Rail Safety National Law.
- Model laws
  - Australian Road Rules, Australian Vehicle Standards Rules
- Other instruments and guides
  - Assessing Fitness to Drive, ADF Road Transport Exemption Framework, Load Restraint Guide
- Land Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Laws
  - Australian Code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail (the Code)
  - Model Act and Model Subordinate Law



## TDG laws roles

- Each State incorporates the model act and subordinate law into their own legislative frameworks
- The state competent authority (CA) is responsible for administering and enforcing the TDG laws
- CA's approve industry applications for exemptions and determinations in their state
- National exemptions and determinations are approved by the Competent Authorities Panel



## The Code

- The Code sets out requirements for transporting dangerous goods by road or rail
- The Code is based on the UN recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods model regulations, with specific provisions to reflect Australian conditions
- Edition 7.3 is based on the UN's 17<sup>th</sup> version



## Maintaining the Code

- NTC reviews the Code every 2 years to incorporate the latest edition of the UN model regulations
- As part of the maintenance process, regulators and industry can also put forward issues for review
- Amendments to the Code are approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council



## Status of the Code and next steps

- Edition 7.4 will be released by the end of 2015, based on the 18<sup>th</sup> version of the UN recommendations
- The 19<sup>th</sup> version of the UN recommendations were released in 2015 and work has commenced to update the Code (to be released in 2017 )
- Suggested local provisions will be presented to Ministers in 2016



## NTC is investigating policy matters

- Classifying diesel fuel as a dangerous good (diesel is not classified as a dangerous good in Australia)
- There is concern that a major diesel tanker accident could result in a catastrophic outcome, particularly in a tunnel environment
- Diesel transported under the Safe Load Program (SLP) meets Class 3 flammable liquid requirements, however it's unclear what happens outside SLP
- NTC is preparing a regulatory impact statement and consulting with stakeholders to determine the best approach





## Other DG policy matters being considered

- Limited quantities of dangerous goods
- Tools of trade



## Other current NTC activities

- Legislative chain of responsibility issues
- Electronic work diaries
- Heavy vehicle driver fatigue data
- Cooperative intelligent transport systems policy implementation
- Review of quad-axle, twin-steer and tri-drive operations
- Load restraint guide
- Heavy vehicle road worthiness
- Heavy vehicle charges review and determinations

The National Transport Commission leads regulatory and operational reform nationally to meet the needs of transport users and the broader community for safe, efficient and sustainable land transport.

Keep in touch with the latest NTC news by registering to receive our free e-newsletter and alerts at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au)

