



Mr Michael Coulter
General Manager
Nambucca Shire Council

Via Email: council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au

25 March 2019

Dear Mr Coulter

Re: National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Notice

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and its members have worked with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), and state and territory road regulators to develop a common set of rules regulating access for agricultural vehicles to public roads.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your support, if you have not provided it already, for the new National Class 1 Agricultural Vehicle and Combination Notice to enable it to be implemented as soon as possible.

The process to harmonise and modernise the Class 1 Notice rules began almost two years ago. Farmers had told us the paperwork needed to move their agricultural vehicles on public roads was hampering the efficient running of their farms, without any clear contribution to road safety.

The NFF's objectives, from the beginning of the process, has been to reduce the red tape farmers have had to manage to move their machinery, ensure the new Notice include common sense, simple rules, and that road safety not be compromised.

To support our contribution to development of the Class 1 Notice, the NFF commissioned, with support from the NHVR, a study into the actual number of road incidents involving agricultural machinery on public roads. The study, undertaken by Dr Richard Franklin from James Cook University, concluded there was only a small number of incidents involving

agricultural vehicles in the period from 2005 – 2016, reflecting both the low speed, low frequency of use, and generally short distances travelled by these vehicles on public roads. (Dr Franklin’s report is available at <https://www.nff.org.au/shared/6105.pdf>).

We believe there are clear benefits for local councils in approving this new Notice and the zones as recommended by the NHVR. By improving the efficiency of farming operations that move agricultural vehicles on roads in your shire, you are helping to build more profitable farming businesses. This will have flow-on affects for your local communities and regional economy.

The NFF also understands the pressures on local road managers to maintain and upgrade roads where needed. To this end, the NFF continues to advocate for increased spending on local roads to improve the efficiency of agricultural production chains and, in turn, the international competitiveness of Australia’s agricultural sector.

This new Notice is an important outcome for our agricultural businesses. The NFF seeks your support for its speedy implementation.

Please do not hesitate to contact Pru Gordon, General Manager, Trade and Economics (pgordon@nff.org.au or 02 62695666) should you wish to discuss any matter raised in this letter further.

Yours sincerely



Tony Mahar
CEO
National Farmers’ Federation



Mike Guerin
CEO
AgForce



Peter Arkle
CEO
New South Wales Farmers Association



Rob Kerin
Executive Chairman
Primary Producers South Australia



Steve Sheridan
CEO
Victorian Farmers' Federation



Dan Galligan
CEO
Canegrowers



Adam Kay
CEO
Cotton Australia



Dave McKeown
CEO
GrainGrowers