



Farm Gate Access

Connecting primary industries

Transport for NSW

Enabling safe and compliant access to lower risk roads

As the freight task continues to increase we are delivering solutions to overcome barriers in network connectivity, maximise productivity and support the local economy in regional NSW.

The Farm Gate Access Project has been developed to improve the permit application process and assist councils in making timely decisions regarding access for heavy vehicles on lower risk roads. This provides a benefit to local farmers, businesses, participating councils and the community more broadly.

Our focus is on local roads that provide access to farms and have limited heavy vehicle connectivity to the broader road network. These roads generally:

- carry no more than 200 vehicles per day
- 25 or less of these movements are made by heavy vehicles.

The project aims to achieve better access outcomes for:

- Restricted Access Vehicles up to and including 26m B-doubles
- vehicle combinations that are up to 4.6 metres high
- vehicles operating at Higher Mass Limits
- vehicles travelling under productivity schemes such as the Grain Harvest Management Scheme or the Livestock Loading Scheme in accordance with the definitions outlined in the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

Road trains are not included in this project.

More information on project eligibility and criteria can be found on the webpage rms.work/farmgateaccess.

Designed to support councils in their role as road manager

The Farm Gate Access Project makes it quicker and easier to apply for and approve freight movements on local roads which provide access for our NSW farmers and primary producers.

The project introduces an access assessment framework, including a third party risk assessment tool.

The tool will comprise of a series of questions and suggested mitigation measures. Road managers will use information from the assessment to make timely access decisions on lower risk roads.

Once an assessment is complete, it is sent to the road manager as part of the permit application.

The process does not change the responsibility of a road manager to approve access, as prescribed under the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Instead, this tool will provide greater support for local councils carrying out route assessments.

Participation in the Farm Gate Access Project is voluntary and is at the discretion of local councils.

Launching the project

The NSW Government is testing the use, acceptance and benefits of the decision-making and risk based framework. This is an opportunity to make any necessary improvements before further implementation.

An evaluation will be carried out at six and nine months to determine the effectiveness of the framework from the perspective of the agriculture and transport industries, local councils, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and Transport for NSW.

Local councils who participate will have the opportunity to lead refinement of the risk assessment framework, including the tools and guidelines. If successful, the Farm Gate Access Project will be rolled out across NSW.



How to participate in the project

More information on the Farm Gate Access Project can be found at rms.work/farmgateaccess.

If you are a NSW local council or industry representative and would like to know more about the Farm Gate Access Project, please contact the Freight Branch by email at roadfreight@rms.nsw.gov.au.

If you are a member of the community who would like to promote this framework in your area, please start a conversation with your local council or contact us using the details shown above.

The outcomes of the evaluation will be made publicly available on the project webpage.



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 13 22 13.



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