The Safety, Productivity & Environment Construction Transport Scheme (SPECTS) is a voluntary scheme designed to enable the efficient movement of construction materials to support growth of the greater Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong area by allowing enrolled trucks carrying more materials greater road access in return for meeting higher environmental, safety and compliance standards.

Benefits to transport operators include

- Transport operators utilising 7 axle truck and dog combinations and wishing to transport a total vehicle combination and load mass of more than 50.5 tonnes are able to transport a total of 57.5 tonnes
- General access, at this higher mass, is available on the state road network and approved local council roads with very few restrictions compared to the restrictions on the current B-Double Network
- Increased revenue estimated to be up to $80,000 per vehicle during the first year, and $100,000 each subsequent year *

The Scheme aligns with the NSW Government’s five year road infrastructure boom, which next year will see the State delivering more construction activity than Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Queensland combined.

SPECTS provides the opportunity for operators to transport greater mass than currently available. For example, transport operators utilising 7 axle truck and dog combinations and wishing to transport a total vehicle combination and load mass of more than 50.5 tonnes are able to transport a total of up to 57.5 tonnes under SPECTS.

At this higher mass, general access is available on the state road network and approved local council roads with very few restrictions compared to the restrictions on the current B-Double network. For semi-trailer combinations, a total mass of up to 50.5 tonnes is available and general access is also available rather than the current Higher Mass Limits (HML) PBS Level 1 Network.

The NSW Class 2 Safety, Productivity & Environment Construction Transport Scheme Authorisation Notice 2016 (Notice) provides an enrolled operator’s nominated vehicles with greater access to a prescribed network in return for greater safety, environmental and compliance requirements.

Participation in SPECTS is also subject to the conditions contained in the SPECTS Business Rules.

Eligible Vehicles and Construction Materials

In return for improved access, enrolled vehicles are required to have a Performance Based Standards (PBS) Vehicle Approval, have, at least, a Euro 5 engine, be fitted with a range of safety features, be enrolled in the Intelligent Access Program (IAP) and equipped with On Board Mass (OBM) monitoring systems linked to the IAP, to provide compliance assurance.

The following types of heavy vehicles are eligible to apply for enrolment in the Scheme if they have a PBS approved vehicle that meets the PBS Bridge Loading standard at Tier 1 (except for the quad axle prime mover semi-trailer combinations listed at paragraph c) and paragraph e) which may operate under the Scheme if they meet the PBS Bridge Loading standard at Tier 3) and is:

- A PBS Level 1 or 2A 3 or 4 axle rigid truck towing a 3 axle dog trailer with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 54.0 tonnes and with a
maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres; or

• A PBS Level 1 or 2A 3 or 4 axle rigid truck towing a 4 axle dog trailer with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 57.5 tonnes and with a maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres; or

• A PBS Level 1 prime mover semi-trailer combination with a quad axle group with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 50.5 tonnes and with a maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres (this combination may operate if it meets the Bridge Loading standard at Tier 3); or

• A PBS Level 1 prime mover semi-trailer combination with a tri-axle group with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 46.0 tonnes and with a maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres; or

• A PBS Level 1 concrete agitator prime mover semi-trailer combination with a quad axle group with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 50.5 tonnes and has a maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres (this combination may operate if it meets the Bridge Loading standard at Tier 3); or

• A PBS Level 1 concrete agitator prime mover semi-trailer combination with a tri-axle group with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at up to 46.0 tonnes and has a maximum overall length no greater than 20.0 metres; or

• A rigid concrete agitator with a current PBS Vehicle Approval for operation at PBS Level 1; and

• Has a maximum height of 4.3m; and

• Is engaged in “construction activity”.

An operator must not exceed the mass available under the PBS Vehicle Approval and must comply with the lower of: the applicable mass set out above or the mass stated in the PBS Vehicle Approval.

Construction materials
The Scheme applies to enrolled vehicles carrying one or a combination of the following construction materials in the NSW Urban Zone:

• Bitumen

• Bricks and masonry

• Cement and concrete

• Fly ash and slag

• Glass

• Plasterboard

• Quarry products (including aggregates and sand)

• Spoil and demolition waste

• Steel

• Timber

Vehicle requirements
Eligible vehicles must have the following safety and environmental features set out in the SPECTS Business Rules:

• Electronic Stability Control (ESC) – on vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 2017 as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• Roll-over control system on trailer – to be fitted to vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 2017 in conjunction with ESC as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• Systems to improve visibility and detection of vulnerable road users, such as blind spot mirrors as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• Reversing lights on both truck and trailer as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• Enhanced vehicle visibility markings – using retro-reflective tape to provide a contour outline of the vehicle as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• “Smart” reversing alarm, which adjusts the noise level to be appropriate for the environment that the vehicle operates in, on both the truck and trailer as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules

• At least Euro 5 diesel engine as defined in the SPECTS Business Rules.

Eligible vehicles must also:
• Be enrolled in the IAP and IAP-linked OBM in NSW
• Be currently registered in an Australian jurisdiction
• Be issued and comply with the PBS Vehicle Approval, which sets out the approved combination and the required national operating conditions
• Comply with all the conditions set out in the SPECTS Business Rules and the Notice.

An enrolled operator must have in place arrangements that are reasonably capable of ensuring that each nominated vehicle meets all of the heavy vehicle standards applicable to the vehicle and that no vehicle is operated on a road when it is unsafe.

Compliance and enforcement
To manage risk and maximise the benefits of the Scheme for industry and the community, Roads and Maritime applies a comprehensive risk-based compliance strategy combining on-road enforcement and follow-up investigations.

All enrolled vehicles, including trailers, will be issued with a SPECTS label which must be displayed on, or adjacent to, the driver’s side door at eye level as well as on each trailer.

They must also be equipped with an IAP in-vehicle unit to enable satellite-based tracking, thereby providing Roads and Maritime and the community with greater assurance that the right heavy vehicles are operating on the right roads.

In addition, the vehicles must be fitted with OBM measurement devices linked to IAP so Roads and Maritime knows how much is being carried on the road and when crossing structures.

Approved routes and mass
The SPECTS network enables travel on all approved State Roads and local council roads in the NSW Urban Zone, excluding bridges signposted with load limits.

There are no bridge restrictions for 6 axle truck and dog combinations and 20 metre semi-trailers and, only one bridge restriction for 7 axle truck and dog combinations, on the state road network in the NSW Urban Zone – Gasworks Bridge on Macarthur Street in Parramatta.

Operators will require National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) issued permits to travel on local council roads within the Urban Zone for roads that are not approved for inclusion in the SPECTS network.

SPECTS eligible vehicles may operate up to the maximum SPECTS approved mass limits set out in the table below on routes shown on the SPECTS Network Map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible vehicle</th>
<th>SPECTS approved mass (maximum)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 and 2A 3 or 4 axle truck towing 3 axle dog trailer</td>
<td>Up to 54.0 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 and 2A 3 or 4 axle truck towing 4 axle dog trailer</td>
<td>Up to 57.5 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 prime mover semi-trailer combination with quad axle group</td>
<td>Up to 50.5 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 concrete agitator prime mover semi-trailer combination with quad axle group</td>
<td>Up to 50.5 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 prime mover semi-trailer combination with tri-axle group</td>
<td>Up to 46 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 concrete agitator prime mover semi-trailer combination with tri-axle combination</td>
<td>Up to 46.0 tonnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBS Level 1 rigid concrete agitator</td>
<td>As per PBS Vehicle Approval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joining the Scheme
Operators may enrol eligible vehicle units in the Scheme by lodging an application with Roads and Maritime along with documented proof of eligibility for each vehicle unit, including prime movers, hauling units and trailers.

1 Overall combination length is limited to a maximum of 20.0 metres
Refer to the Roads and Maritime website to see what documentary evidence is required when lodging an application.

Interstate registered vehicles are also eligible to be enrolled in the Scheme.

Scheme enrolment is subject to annual renewal of enrolment of all vehicle units. Operators must advise Roads and Maritime of changes to vehicle ownership or registration.

No Scheme enrolment fee will be charged.

Operators are able to enrol in IAP as part of the SPECTS enrolment process if they are not already enrolled in IAP.

An operator may terminate their involvement in the Scheme at any time.

More information

Transport operators are able to download, complete and submit an application through the Roads and Maritime website.

If you have questions please email iap@rms.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 364 847.

Please feel free to contact us during office hours Monday- Friday.


* Based on research undertaken by an independent consultant engaged by Roads and Maritime who estimated that enrolled transport operators would realise increased productivity benefits, including increased revenue of up to $80,000 per vehicle during the first year, and $100,000 each subsequent year based on operating 300 days. This estimate accounts for the approximate cost of retro-fitting the required safety features and installing Intelligent Access Program route monitoring and On-Board Mass measuring devices.