



**Paul Fletcher MP  
Federal Member for Bradfield  
Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities**

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**For Immediate Release**

**National Pilot trucking along with call for tenders**

The Australian Government has now called for tenders for work on the first stage of the National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot – an important step toward establishing a fairer, more efficient national heavy vehicle user charging system.

Today vehicles 4.5 tonnes and above, which make up about 3 per cent of all vehicles on the road, pay a heavy vehicle user charge – which is collected through the fuel excise system and through state motor vehicle registration charges.

But the Australian Government and state and territory governments have committed to reform the current heavy vehicle user charging system – and part of that reform process will be a series of trials and pilots to test alternative approaches.

“The National Heavy Vehicle User Pilot will lay a foundation for later on-road trials – which will test if we could replace the existing heavy vehicle user charge with a direct user-pays charging system,” Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities Paul Fletcher said.

“Such a system could improve freight efficiency – feeding through to lower prices for consumers and a substantial productivity dividend for the national economy, estimated at between \$6.5bn and \$13.3bn over twenty years.

“But to get these benefits we need a system which works well for the heavy vehicle industry. This is why the Australian Government is keen to work with industry to design and run heavy vehicle charging trials.

“Last month I met with a number of key members of the industry to discuss heavy vehicle road reform and how we could progress trials.

“The participants clearly indicated they want to understand the impact a potential new charging system could have on their businesses and customers.

“The research and planning work to be undertaken during Stage 1 of the National Pilot will provide some of the answers and inform how the on-road stages of the National Pilot can best be implemented.

“I have seen first-hand in Oregon and California the important role well-designed road user charging trials play in engaging users in the reform process.”

Participation in the National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot will be voluntary and the first two stages will not involve ‘real money’ charges.

**Paul Fletcher, Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, Sydney**

For more information on the National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot, please visit:

<https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/heavy/charging-trials/index.aspx>.

To view the tender documentation for Stage 1 of the National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot, please visit:

<https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.atm.show&ATMUUID=9C3AC19E-B717-B861-DF787931B5FE32D6>

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