

RAV Access Benefits

Transport Tasks

Main Roads Heavy Vehicle Services (HVS) is responsible for providing an efficient heavy vehicle network. However, HVS does not approve transport tasks, i.e. HVS does not approve development applications, mining leases, extraction licenses etc.

Generally, these approvals and the transport tasks are already in place before a transport operator requests more efficient heavy vehicle access. So, by approving Restricted Access Vehicles (RAV) access, we are not creating new transport tasks, we are simply improving the efficiency of existing transport tasks.

Similarly, by improving the efficiency of a transport task, we are not increasing the transport task. For example, production of a product and/or demand for a product will not suddenly increase because the transport task associated with that product is more efficient.

Road Manager & Community Benefits

Where a road is assessed as being safe for a RAV, allowing RAV access not only provides productivity benefits for the transport industry, but it also provides considerable benefits to road managers, other road users and the local community, which are all based around reducing the number of heavy vehicle movements.



Allowing RAV access reduces the number of heavy vehicle movements required for a specific transport task, which consequently reduces:

- **risk exposure** – reducing the number of vehicle interactions, reducing the number of drivers behind the wheel of a heavy vehicle, reducing the risk of human error and the potential for a serious crash.



- **transport costs** – reducing transport costs directly effects the consumer, as any increase to transport costs will be passed on by the transport operator.
- **carbon emissions** – reducing the number of prime movers used for a transport task is key in reducing carbon emissions.



- **heavy vehicle noise** – reducing the number of prime movers used for a transport task is key in reducing heavy vehicle noise, particularly in built-up areas.
- **traffic congestion** – two single trailer combinations (up to 20 metres in length) are not only physically longer than a double road train

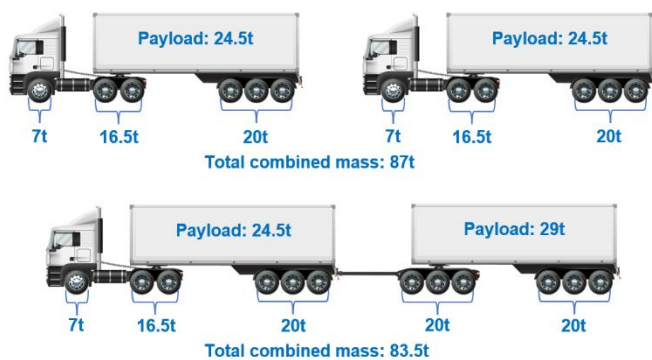
(27.5 metres to 36.5 metres in length), but they also take up more road space due to the gap required between vehicles, plus the delays when accelerating in a queue; and

- **road wear** – where the RAV access is not increasing axle group mass limits, allowing RAV access will reduce road wear

Reducing Road Wear

By approving RAV access, we not only reduce the number of heavy vehicle movements, but we also reduce the axle loadings on the road.

For example, compare two single trailer combinations (general access vehicles) with a double road train, as shown below:



The double road trains:

- has **less** tare mass than the two general access vehicles, meaning it can carry **more** payload;
- has a **lower** total combined mass than the two general access vehicles, meaning it is carrying **more** payload with **less** loading on the road; and
- has **less** steer axles, which are arguably the worst axles for road damage.

This means the double road train can carry the same amount of product in less than half the movements, compared to if the transport task was performed using the two general access vehicles.

Increasing the RAV Access & Benefits

The previously mentioned benefits increase as the level of RAV access increases. For example, if a transport operator wanted to move 500 tonnes of product using the general access vehicle, this would require approximately 21 movements.

If the operator was able to use a double road train to move the same 500 tonnes of product, this would only require approximately 10 movements, and if the

operator was able to use a triple road train to move the same 500 tonnes of product, this would only require approximately 6 movements.

The comparison is depicted below:



VS.



VS.



Further Information

For more information about the RAV access approval process in Western Australia, please visit the Access Requirements in WA page on our website at <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/access-requirements-in-wa/> or contact the HVS Helpdesk on 138 486.