21 DECEMBER 2011

WESTERN ZONE TRAVEL PERMITTED FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY DURING HOLIDAY PERIOD

Farmers have been granted a Christmas wish with oversize agricultural machinery able to travel on roads in the NSW Western Zone.

Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries said in response to heavy rain the exemption will allow farmers to harvest crops without delay.

“This concession will help farmers considerably during the holiday period to harvest their crops,” Mr Humphries said.

“However, with holiday traffic on the roads, machinery operators are advised to travel with care and be aware some motorists may not be experienced with encountering wide agricultural machinery.

“With that in mind, farmers are asked to only move machinery if absolutely necessary during the holiday period.”

Oversize agricultural vehicles or combinations travelling in the Western Zone during the day are subject to normal piloting requirements as per the General Class 1 Oversize (Agricultural Vehicle) Notice 2007.

One pilot vehicle is required for agricultural vehicles or combinations between 3.7m and 4.5m wide and two pilot vehicles are needed for agricultural vehicles and combinations wider than 4.5m.

Oversize agricultural vehicles or combinations travelling during the day wider than 2.5m and/or longer than 19m between sunrise Friday 23 December 2011 to sunset on Monday 2 January 2012 must have at least one pilot vehicle and obtain NSW Police permission to travel on:

- Any highway east of (but not including) the Newell Highway
- The Burley Griffin Way between the Hume Highway and Griffith
- The Lachlan Valley Way between Yass and Cowra

“This relates to agricultural machinery such as headers and tractors, agricultural implements being towed by an agricultural machine and agricultural machines,” Mr Humphries said.

“All other conditions of the General Class 1 Oversize (Agricultural Vehicle) Notice 2007 which apply for the specific dimensions of the agricultural machinery being moved must be complied with including no night time travel for agricultural vehicles or combinations wider than 2.5m or longer than 22m.
The Western Zone runs from Corowa, Culcairn, Boorowa, Molong, Mudgee, Merriwa, Quirindi, Tamworth, Bundarra and Inverell in the east to the Queensland border next to the intersection of the Bonshaw–Emmaville Road and the Bruxner Highway (HW16) east of Bonshaw.