



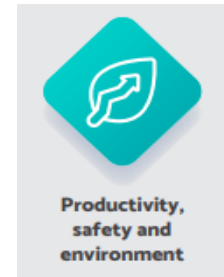
A review of three-axle mass limits

Mandi Mees, Project Director Productivity and Safety
27 June 2018

Who is the NTC? What do we do?

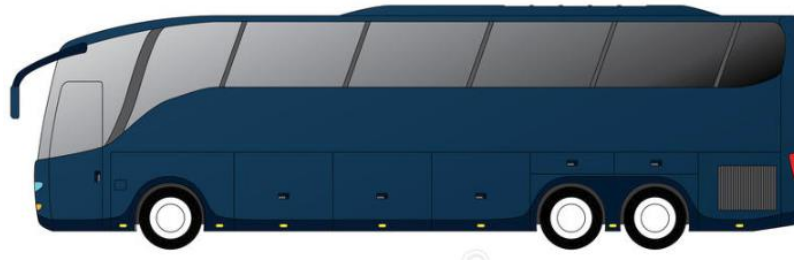
“The National Transport Commission is an independent statutory body that contributes to the achievement of national transport policy objectives by developing regulatory and operational reform of road, rail and intermodal transport”

**A key focus area is productivity,
safety and the environment.**



Objective of 3-axle mass limit review

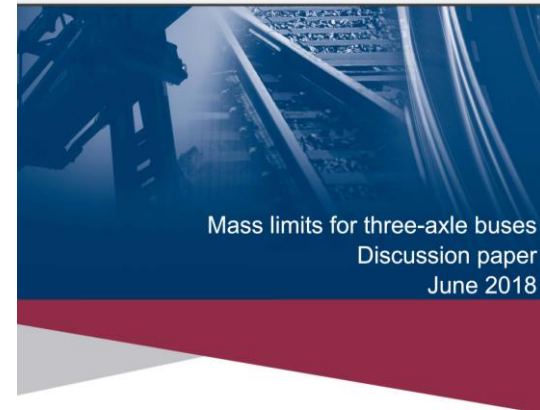
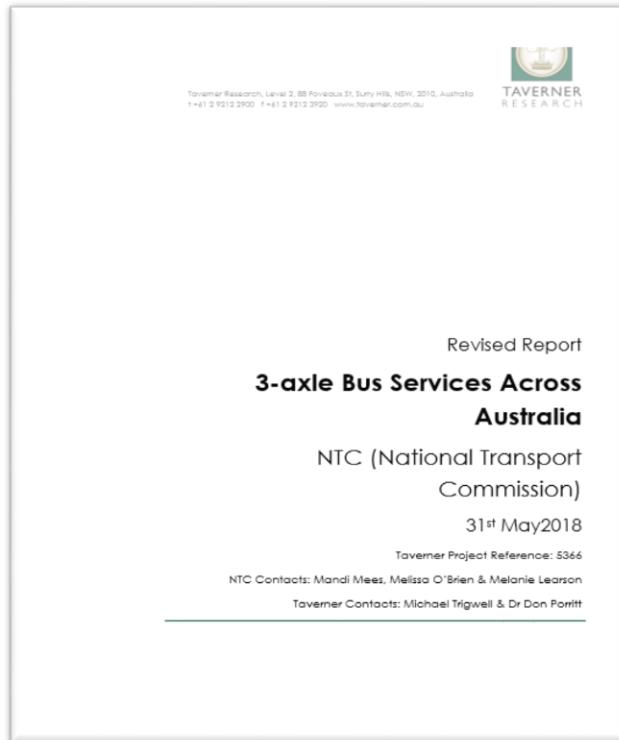
To evaluate appropriateness of the current mass limits for three-axle bus services.



Questions we're asking...

- **Bus loading and luggage types** - *How are three-axle buses configured and what are they carrying?*
- **Network utilisation and journey type** - *Where are three-axle bus services travelling and why?*
- Is there **evidence** of a need for change?
- Are there **opportunities** to help optimise the use of three-axle bus assets and improve the customer experience?

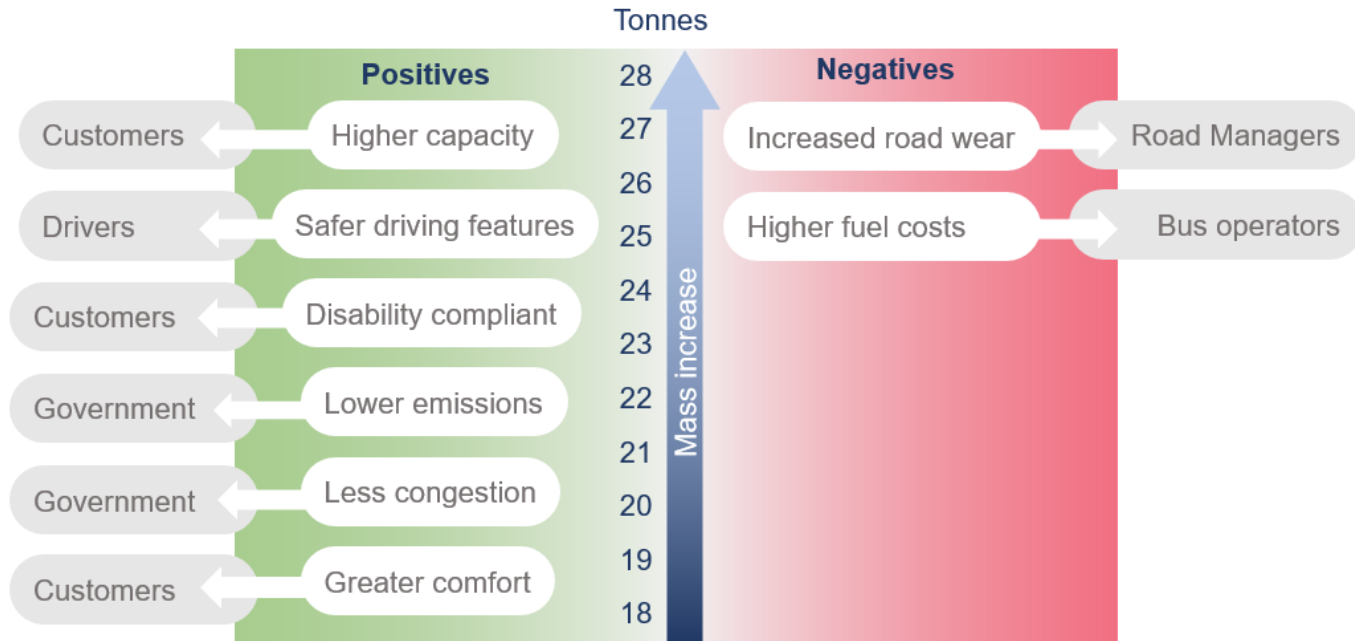
Defining the problem



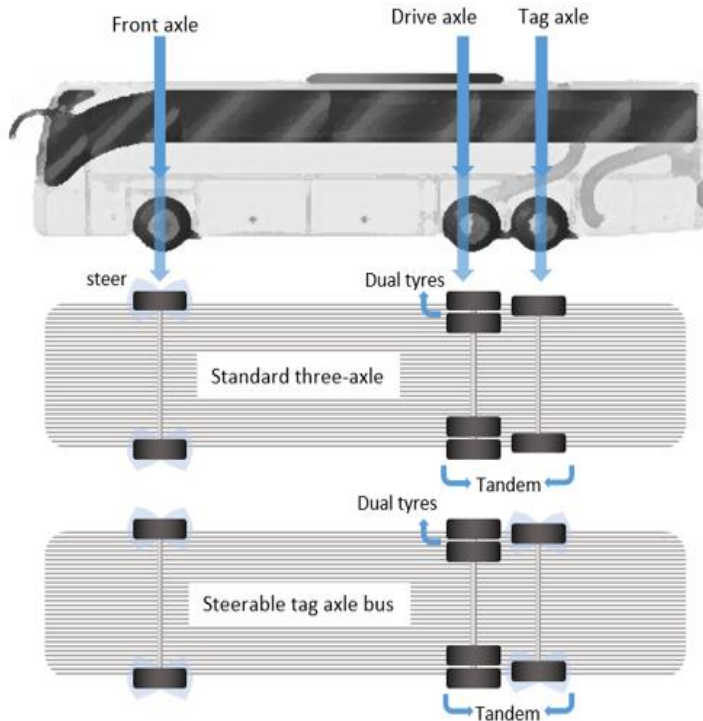
Key findings to date

- Technology is increasing tare mass
 - Heavier mechanical parts needed to fulfil the requirements of the Federal Disability Discrimination Act 1992
 - Emissions standards for engine exhaust
- Disconnect with luggage weight allowances on other transport modes – luggage is partly responsible for overloading
- Current gross loaded mass is likely to be exceeded during peak times for route services and long distance coaches at full capacity

Benefits of change



Possible option - 1

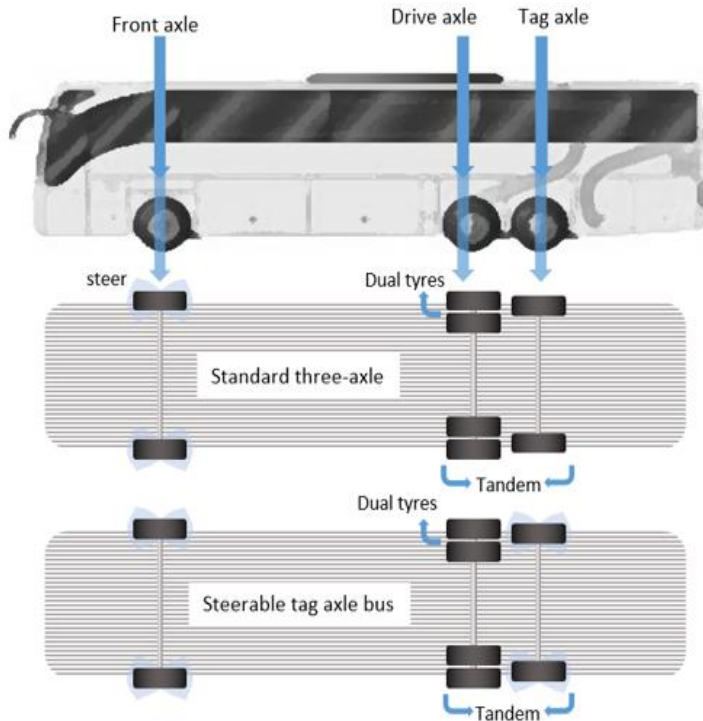


We suggest:

- Front axle: **7 tonnes**
- Tandem (drive and tag): **14 tonnes**
- Total mass limit: **21 tonnes**

Luggage calculations amended so that passengers can carry up to 23 kg each.

Possible option - 2



We suggest:

- Front axle: **7 tonnes**
- Tandem (drive and tag tyre, with tag tyre above 375 mm): **16 tonnes**
- Total mass limit: **23 tonnes**

Luggage calculations amended so that passengers can carry up to 23 kg each.

Early feedback

- Proposed gross mass limits
 - clarify total gross mass limit
 - clarify weight distribution for each axle (e.g. 60:40 in NSW),
 - consider a cap (two-axle bus 7t/12t/18t)
- Tyre width
 - steer axle for 7t / tag axle with 375mm for 23t GML
- Definition of three-axle bus – tighten to single deck?
- Safety features – anti-lock braking and electronic stability control
- Passenger weight calculation increase 80kg

Have your say

- Submissions are open until 24 July 2018 online at www.ntc.gov.au, via Twitter or LinkedIn or by mail.
- Contact Melissa O'Brien, NTC Project Manager mobrien@ntc.gov.au

The National Transport Commission leads regulatory and operational reform nationally to meet the needs of transport users and the broader community for safe, efficient and sustainable land transport.

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