

### **Positive outcome from recent Worksafe Victoria telehandler licensing review.**

AEXCO, along with other supportive industry groups (for example Victorian Farmers Federation), has been contributing to a Worksafe Victoria telehandler licensing review over the last twelve months.

Danica Harris, the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager - External Affairs of WorkSafe Victoria has recently provided the following update on the reform of telehandler licensing in Victoria.

#### *“Confirmed approach for licence reform*

As you know, over the last eight months, WorkSafe has carefully considered and documented all the feedback that has been provided by stakeholders on telehandler licence reform.

This information, along with WorkSafe’s body of research and details of the four options for licence reform, was shared with the Minister for Workplace Safety, Ingrid Stitt, for consideration in July.

I can now confirm the Minister has approved the progression of WorkSafe’s recommended option (option 2a), the development of a High-Risk Work Licence (HRWL) specifically for telehandlers, encompassed in the existing non-slewing mobile crane licence (CN licence).

As detailed in our last correspondence, this option provides telehandler operators with the flexibility to choose between obtaining a new telehandler HRWL by completing a new telehandler specific Unit of Competency or maintain the existing CN licence requirement. Telehandler operators would not be required to hold both licences.

#### *Next steps*

With a confirmed approach to telehandler licence reform, WorkSafe will develop a detailed implementation plan. This plan will provide further clarity on expected timelines, and the process required to develop and implement a targeted telehandler HRWL, including the development of a new training package to support the new licence and the amendment of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 to create the licence.

We will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout this process, particularly in regards to the development of targeted and accessible training that meets the needs of telehandler operators across all industries”.

Mark Heaslip, AEXCO Chairman, looks forward to the implementation of Worksafe Victoria telehandler licence reforms. “ The reforms should deliver new telehandler training requirements that are more practical / fit for purpose in agriculture and in particular the fodder industry. Having telehandler trainers come to an export hay plant or onto farm to train telehandler operators in a reasonable time frame and cost will be a significant benefit to all telehandler users.”