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### STATE ROAD ACCESS REFORMS SLASH RED TAPE

The State Government has cut red tape restricting heavy vehicle access to many of South Australia's roads.

The Heavy Vehicle Reform Project changes will enable more efficient route access for operators of road trains and B-double multi-trailer vehicles.

The changes will eliminate the time-consuming processing of about 3000 permits by mid-July 2007.

Karlene Maywald, Minister assisting the Minister for Industry and Trade, says \$770,000 in heavy-vehicle operators' administration costs will be saved, and operators' frustration alleviated, through the reforms.

Under the existing system, roads on which heavy vehicles regularly travel fall into two categories:

- Arterial and major roads that form regular routes, and so are "gazetted" to enable free access, and;
- Local roads that are less frequently travelled, which require clearances from appropriate councils and a State Government permit.

"This means any road-train or B-double operator wishing to travel along a permit-related local road had to approach the relevant council each year for clearance," Minister Maywald said.

"The road transport industry has been voicing its frustration at this system for many years, describing it as unnecessarily time-consuming and expensive.

**"Under the government's reforms, many more roads will be gazetted, so operators will no longer require individual permits for as many routes across the State.**

"These reforms are being introduced in consultation with individual councils and the feedback we have received has been very positive, with councils recognising the savings to be achieved."

Minister Maywald says the frustration and unnecessary cost caused by red tape in the road access system was one transport-related issue highlighted in a mid-year survey of South Australian small-business operators.

"The reduction of red tape in business and industry – by at least 25 per cent by July 2008 – is a priority of the State Government's Competitive Council, established earlier this year to help SA compete internationally, generating more investment," Minister Maywald said.