

BULLETIN

Farm and Industrial Machinery Dealers Association



Reference No: Telehandlers 12-19

Date issued: 11/12/2019

Survey for Farm Machinery Dealers regarding telehandlers

Members of VACC's Farm and Industrial Machinery Dealers Association (FIMDA) are advised that the FIMDA Policy Advisor, Michael McKenna has been appointed to represent the retail automotive industry on the VicRoads convened Rural Reference Group (RRG).

The purpose of the RRG is for all stakeholders to discuss areas where the Victorian road system can better cater for Victoria's burgeoning agriculture sector and discuss and/or recommend for the introduction of legislation or regulation that will impact this sector's day to day operation.

Other stakeholders who are part of the RRG include :

- Victorian Department of Transport
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia

VACC/FIMDA will focus on issues that directly affect the automotive specific commercial operations of FIMDA members on a day to day basis. If FIMDA members have any issues they would like to be placed on the RRG agenda, please feel free to contact me at VACC.

The first outcome from FIMDA's representation on the RRG has resulted in FIMDA being approached by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) who have requested that FIMDA members participate in a survey (see link below) that will help inform future licensing requirements in the use of telehandlers in the agricultural sector. I would urge you all to participate.

FIMDA thanks Annabel Mactier from the VFF for inviting FIMDA members to participate in this survey.

May you all have a safe and merry Christmas.

Michael McKenna MBA
Industry Policy Advisor
Industry Divisions

VACC

Level 7 | 464 St Kilda Road | Melbourne Vic 3004

P: 03 9829 1280 | **M:** 0418 822 939 | **F:** 03 9867 1795 | **W:** vacc.com.au

Media Release



Tuesday 3 December 2019

VFF urges industry to complete telehandler survey

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The VFF Grains Group is urging farmers to complete a survey on telehandlers use in agriculture.

The VFF Grains Group has worked with Worksafe and the Telescopic Handlers Association of Australia to develop the survey to inform future licensing requirements.

“Telehandlers have become an increasingly popular method of safely moving hay on Victorian farms, however regulation has not kept up with modern farming practices,” said Ash Fraser, VFF Grains Group President.

Whilst approximately 77% of telehandlers are now sold to the agriculture sector, training is still largely targeted at the construction industry.

Under the current laws, Victoria is one of only 2 states in Australia to require a crane license to operate a telehandler with a capacity of three tonnes or more with forks and as of January 2020, farmers will also be required to attain a dogging license.

“The current licensing regime is expensive, time consuming and does little to specifically improve capability around the use of telehandlers on farms. We need fit for purpose training that assists farmers to safely and efficiently use telehandlers in an agricultural setting” Mr Fraser concluded.

The survey can be found here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/telehandlers_in_ag

ENDS

Media Contacts:

Ash Fraser, VFF Grains Group President, 0418 176 764

Grady Powell, VFF Stakeholder Policy and Advocacy Manager, 0456 960 243
