

## Media Release

### VicRoads pioneers new radar safety technology

**Monday, 17 August, 2015**

VicRoads has announced it will install radar-based reverse braking technology to its road maintenance fleet after a successful trial.

The Reverse Smart automated system is the first of its kind to be trialled in Australia and VicRoads is the first heavy fleet operator to install the technology.

“Safety in the workplace is of the upmost importance and this technology will significantly improve safe working conditions for VicRoads employees. The safety of our people and members of the public is paramount and the autonomous braking system will make a difference,” VicRoads Chief Executive, John Merritt, said.

According to WorkSafe Australia, between 2003 and 2012, 18 workers were killed in the workplace by incidents involving reversing trucks. Fatalities included 6 workers killed while undertaking loading activities, 5 while undertaking traffic control activities and 3 workers were simply moving around construction sites when they were hit by a truck.

VicRoads recently completed a six month trial of the radar-based technology, installed on a patrol truck and a tip truck. When the system detects an object at the rear of the truck as it reverses, the airbrakes are automatically applied. VicRoads will now progressively install the technology on to its fleet.

Autonomous emergency braking systems are standard on new cars in Europe, Japan and the United States. The VicRoads trial is pioneering because the retro-fitted radar system is applied to road maintenance vehicles and activated when reversing.

“The technology works alongside other safe systems already in operation and complements our suite of work place procedures. We believe this technology will significantly reduce worksite risks and we hope it will become standard across the industry. Our dedication to workplace safety never ends and VicRoads will continue to consider any new technology which may save lives,” Mr Merritt said.

VicRoads will share the trial data with transport groups and fleet managers and hopes the technology will be widely used within the construction industry.