

SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY AT HARVEST TIME

If you are driving through rural regions of NSW over the next few months, you may notice an increased number of trucks on the road during harvest.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) have initiated a road safety campaign in a bid to remind motorists of the importance of sharing the road safely.

Dubbo Regional Council's Road Safety Officer, Jayne Bleechmore said that electronic message boards have been installed at strategic locations throughout the region displaying messages about sharing the road safely, level crossing safety and warning of the signs of fatigue.

"With an increased mix of grain trucks, farming machinery and general vehicles on our roads at this time of the year, the following simple tips are a timely reminder to us all," Ms Bleechmore said.

"Like you, truck drivers want to get home safely to their families, so let us all learn to share the road safely."

1. Do not overtake turning vehicles: Legally, trucks can use both lanes on roundabouts and intersections to turn. Don't drive directly behind the trailer, if you can't see the driver in their mirror, they can't see you. Do not drive into their blind spot to the left of the truck, be patient and allow them room to turn; for your safety and theirs!
2. Road positioning: If an oncoming oversized vehicle is approaching ensure you stick to the left of your lane. This may lessen the buffeting from air turbulence, particularly if you are towing a caravan, boat or trailer.
3. Overtake with care: Stay well back behind the truck. Be certain you can see sufficient clear road ahead. When you are sure it is safe, signal, move out, and pass. Always check your blind spots and maintain the appropriate speed limit.
4. Stopping distance: Heavy vehicles are longer, heavier and more powerful than standard vehicles and require more room to stop. Don't cut in front of a truck they may be trying to ensure they have enough room to stop safely. Remember that trucks can weigh 40 – 50 times that of an average car and they simply take more time to stop

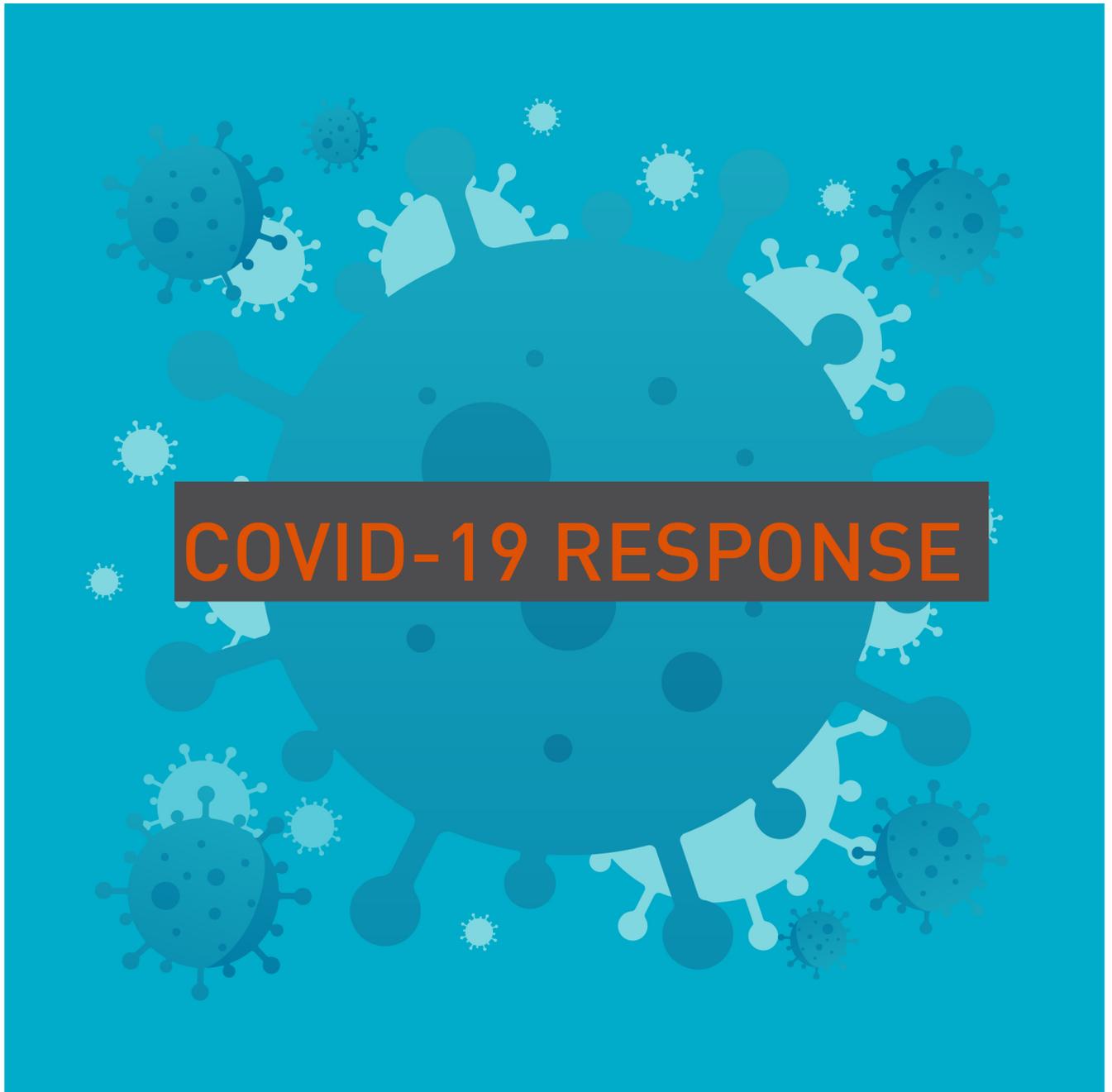
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