NATROAD

Get Fleet Fit

Five steps to reduce costs and manage emissions

Everywhere you look, companies are talking about reducing costs and improving productivity. At the same time government is talking about taking action to reduce carbon emissions and get to 'net zero'. Freight customers are looking for ways to improve their business to meet government targets, investor demand, and customer expectations. As your customers change the way they do business, this has big consequences for the trucking industry – you!

So far, companies have focused on driving down energy costs and emissions from their own activities. But now, they are being forced to look at their entire supply chain, including the carbon emission footprint associated with road freight transport for their products. So, even if you're not being asked yet, many truck operators will need to understand and reduce their emissions in future, particularly if they want subcontracts with big corporate customers.

Each of NatRoad's step-by-step factsheets provides more detail on what truck operators can do to transition and prepare for the 'net zero' world and get through the transition challenges.

This guide will show you how to get there. What you do depends on you.

The good news

Cutting emissions is about more than expensive electric trucks. One way to reduce emissions in the short term is to reduce fuel usage for example. Since diesel is one of the biggest ongoing costs for operators, **it also means potential savings**. NatRoad has developed a simple roadmap to help you through a 5 step process:

1 **Set goals**
Understand what you want to achieve as a business

2 **Measure your starting point**
You can only manage what you measure

3 **Understand your options**
Figure out available opportunities

4 **Make a plan**
Decide what works best for YOUR business

5 **Take action**
Implement your plan and monitor results

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The opportunity

Cutting your impact/emissions doesn't have to mean difficult and disruptive changes, and the benefits often outweigh the cost. Benefits include lower operating costs, reduced maintenance, less waste, potential for new customers/contracts, a healthier workplace, and improved public support for the industry.

The Get Fleet Fit process sets out the key steps trucking businesses can follow to improve their efficiency, reduce their emissions, and keep up with customer expectations. Think of it as a recipe for success – like all good recipes, you must go through the process to get the result.

61% of Australia's biggest companies already have a Net Zero target

FAQs

What is Net Zero?

The aim of 'net zero' is to remove greenhouse gas emissions from a company's operations. The worst greenhouse gas is **carbon dioxide** so sometimes businesses talk about 'decarbonisation' or going 'carbon neutral'. If they can't remove all emissions, businesses compensate for their leftover by paying other companies to reduce their emissions. In this way, businesses effectively **neutralise their emissions impact overall** and can claim to be 'net zero'.

Why focus on fuel efficiency?

Most of your emissions are from the tailpipe of your vehicles, but this is not the only impact. Your business has supply chain emissions of its own, whether it is the products you buy, the electricity you use, or your suppliers' emissions. To reduce this impact, you can choose from more 'sustainable' products, like recycled tyres and carbon neutral lubricants. Of all of the emissions you have direct control over, **by far the biggest is the diesel you burn in your own trucks**.

Where do trucking emissions fit in?

From next year, the biggest companies in Australia must publicly report the emissions they produce. Smaller companies will be included in later years. Due to pressure from shareholders, investors and government, companies will also need to address so-called **'Scope 3' emissions:** carbon that businesses are indirectly responsible for. Often, transport emissions are a big source of these indirect emissions as Australia's freight is so dependent on trucks running on diesel. In the near future, truckies subcontracting for these businesses will need to show how they are reducing emissions or risk losing them as customers.

Do I need to buy an electric truck?

For truck operators, the only way to eliminate carbon is to run trucks without any tailpipe emissions and use renewable energy. **'Low emission' technologies** are improving every day and there are already battery-electric trucks running on Australian roads. But these can be **2–3 times the price** of a new diesel truck. For many smaller Australian operators, this is not a viable solution right now. The good news is there are many other ways to lower emissions (and costs).

Access all the resources here

NATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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