Main Roads WA is partnering with industry to launch an Australian-first trial of autonomous heavy vehicle platooning.

Gathering valuable data and experience in the safe operation of new technology, the trial will raise awareness of autonomous vehicles and explore the benefits of truck platooning in Australia.

Main Roads is a partner of the Australian Driverless Vehicle Initiative (ADVI), a cooperative of industry, government and academia helping drive the development of autonomous vehicles. ADVI conducted the first on-road autonomous passenger vehicle demonstration in November 2015.

The trial will be conducted in a controlled environment on non-public roads using technology supplied by a leading supplier. It is expected to be the first on-road trial of autonomous heavy vehicle technology in Australia.

Information gathered will provide insight into how the technology can in future be safely applied to autonomous heavy vehicles on Australian roads.

The trial will also shape development of Government policy and legislation for self-driving heavy vehicles.

**What is Heavy Vehicle Platooning?**

- A Heavy Vehicle Platoon is a group of two or more wirelessly-connected heavy vehicles that travel at highway speeds in close proximity, nose-to-tail.
- A lead vehicle is followed by a number of other vehicles that precisely match the lead vehicle’s speed and manoeuvres.
- Other vehicles can wirelessly connect and seamlessly join or leave the platoon at any time.

**What are the Benefits?**

- All trucks behind the leading vehicle enjoy reduced wind resistance, leading to fuel savings and lower freight costs.
- More efficient road use increases road capacity, meaning fewer roads will need to be built.