

# MEDIA RELEASE



**QUEENSLAND TRUCKING ASSOCIATION**  
A.B.N. 64 009 963 053

Phone: 07 3394 4388  
Fax: 07 3397 9324  
E-Mail: [admin@qta.com.au](mailto:admin@qta.com.au)

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

## **Trucking Association Cautiously Welcomes Fatigue Strategy for Heavy Vehicle Drivers**

The Queensland Trucking Association Ltd (QTA) today cautiously welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Paul Lucas that heavy vehicle drivers will be targeted for fatigue/driving hours offences with Demerit points as well as financial penalty.

Peter Garske, Executive Director Queensland Trucking Association said "Fundamentally, the QTA supports good Road Safety Policy and understands that as a community we must find solutions for all those groups who feature in the States Road Toll".

The trucking industry in the last decade, has worked with the State Government and its Agencies to introduce a range of policy initiatives designed to reduce the number of fatalities from accidents involving heavy vehicles. Safety data produced by the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics (BTRE) and Queensland Transport identifies significant improvement in the safety record of our industry. Fatalities involving heavy vehicles in Queensland in 2005, was less than 15 percent of the total number of fatalities, and less than the number of fatalities involving motor bike accidents. Demonstrably, with heavy vehicles the cause of the accident giving rise to the fatality is attributed to the other vehicle and its driver in over 65 percent of the accidents.

Mr Garske stated, "The proposal to impose penalty points will discourage any practice by persons other than the driver paying a fine, to encourage unsafe practice and thus leaving the heavy vehicle drivers taking no responsibility for their actions."

QTA is an active participant in the States Road Safety Summit and will look for outcomes which will have all of the driving community more aware of their responsibility to share the road safely with other motorists including heavy vehicles.

"Heavy vehicle operators contribute significantly to the economy and at a National level contribute \$1.7 Billion to the road network through registration charges and fuel excise" Mr Garske commented, "Our industry travels on State roads as of right. Current road law protects drivers who refuse to break the law if encouraged to do so by consignors. Ultimately the driver is in charge of the vehicle on the road."

Mr Garske concluded, "The QTA will accept the Ministers invitation to dialogue on the proposal to examine the implementation and application of the penalty point proposal. It is essential that the proposal be considered within the framework of Nationally consistent regulation and that if found to have merit it be implemented fairly as a serious attempt to deliver road safety outcomes and not be a revenue raiser."

"The trucking industry will not tolerate the imposition of penalty points for minor log book breaches which are not an indicator of fatigue risk".

For Further information and detail contact:  
**Peter Garske, QTA Executive Director**  
on (07) 3394 4388 (W) or 0418 724 981(M) or 3394 2782 (H)

Transport Industry House  
96 Cleveland Street  
Stones Corner Q.4120  
PO Box 325  
Stones Corner Q.4120