

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FREIGHT DISRUPTION WILL SERVE NO PURPOSE

The Queensland Trucking Association Ltd (QTA) has today criticised those small disparate groups within the Queensland trucking industry who are calling for disruption to the freight task to commence on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008. So desperate are some, they have now resorted to threats against fellow drivers and operators.

Peter Garske, Chief Executive Officer of QTA Ltd said, "It is difficult to identify the support behind certain individuals who purport to speak on behalf of sections of our industry. These fractured organisations when not openly criticising each other publish ever increasing demands on Governments and others which clearly display an ignorance of the Government regulatory process".

The Queensland Trucking Association Ltd represents a broad cross section of the freight task including long distance, interstate and intrastate, urban, regional and remote operators both large, small and family owned, reject both the approach, the demands and the strategy advanced by all or any of these self proclaimed spokespersons of industry.

"The Industry is going through a most difficult period coping with fuel prices dictated by decision makers on the other side of the world, significant shortages of skilled drivers and a slowing economy which will directly and adversely impact on the size of the freight task. There would not be an operator in Australia who could afford to park up a truck for any period and deliberately deny themselves cash flow, income and viability", said Peter Garske.

QTA Ltd rejects any notion that industry has not participated in the process of regulatory reform over the last decade. The Queensland Government through agencies such as Queensland Transport and the Department of Main Roads continuously seek to engage the views of legitimate representative Industry Associations.

The trucking industry through Associations at a State and National level have been engaged with Government for many years on issues such as heavy vehicle registration charges, road safety outcomes and the driving hours and fatigue management package to be introduced from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Both the Queensland Transport Minister, John Mickel and Federal Minister, Anthony Albanese have in the last 24 hours rejected the demands and tactics of these individuals who purport to speak on behalf of the industry.

"It appears that these vocal minority groups seek a range of quick fix solutions including levels of deregulation. They provide no sustainable business solutions, they lack credibility and they put at risk community and Government confidence in our most valuable and economically important industry."

"QTA Ltd condemns the actions of the so called Australian Long Distance Owners and Drivers Association for the threats contained in recent communication circulating within the industry. We are most concerned for the safety of all drivers, operators and their vehicles. We have referred these threats to the Queensland Police Department. We have requested Queensland Police to exercise their powers to ensure the safety of all road users, including those operators and drivers who will continue to deliver the nation's freight task."

Peter Garske, CEO, QTA Ltd concluded "The profitability and viability of our industry will be directly reflected in the business skills of operators and the industry accepting responsibility for safety outcomes in return for Government's identifying measures which will deliver improved efficiency and productivity. The Queensland trucking industry requires the support of our customers, the community and Government. This will not be achieved by any activity which seeks to disrupt the freight task."

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