

MEDIA RELEASE



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CEDA Report on Infrastructure Calls on Government to Get on with the Job

The Queensland Trucking Association today welcomes the launch of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) Report "Infrastructure – Get on with the Job", in Brisbane today by the Hon Terry Mackenroth, Queensland State Treasurer.

The Trucking Industry was one of several industry groups which supported the research conducted by CEDA into the infrastructure needs and funding solutions across a range of infrastructure utilities. The report addresses the need for significant investment to support Australia's economic development.

Peter Garske, Executive Director Queensland Trucking Association today said "Queensland has for some time failed to meet its infrastructure needs, a responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments. The rapid increase in freight demand and the economic forecast of the freight task doubling over the next 10 years will result in critical bottlenecks and an adverse impact on the State's economy, if urgent solutions are not found".

"The trucking industry has been advocating the vital need for safe and productive road infrastructure to support Australia's growing economy and the corresponding growth in freight movement. Efficiency in road transport is a critical element of Queensland's economic performance and Australia's international competitiveness," he said.

"The community rightfully demands an ability to travel safely on our roads, but clearly the condition of the road infrastructure and its ability to cope with the growing freight task, including freight efficient multi-combination vehicles, impact on safety outcomes. It is a measure of the performance of the trucking industry in Queensland that significant improvements in road safety outcomes have been achieved despite underinvestment in critical freight corridors" said Mr Garske.

The report identifies that the cost of road wear allocated to heavy vehicles is more than recovered through truck registration charges, a State Tax, and net diesel excise, a Commonwealth Tax. Collectively the State and Commonwealth Governments collect \$1.5B per year from the trucking industry. The trucking industry clearly pays its way and Governments must accept responsibility to increase direct investment from recurrent expenditure and consider both debt funding and private sector investment.

"Those parts of the road network/freight corridors requiring urgent attention, have been the subject of recent debate and political point scoring. The Queensland Trucking Association accepts that the solutions are both complex and expensive but must be resolved as a matter of priority" said Mr Garske.

Mr Garske concluded "Agreement between the State and Federal Government on the necessary bi-lateral agreement to allow for the implementation of the AusLink programme is the first step in a solution. The Queensland Trucking Association are keen to be involved in the debate but will insist that heavy vehicle charging regimes are applied on the basis of fair cost recovery across all vehicle classes compared with all modes of transport, established in a transparent manner."

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