

MEDIA RELEASE – FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2018

New SmartCap fatigue technology trial kicks off to improve heavy vehicle safety around Port of Brisbane

The Queensland Trucking Association (QTA Ltd) and Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd (PBPL) today commenced a 12-month pilot of the new ‘SmartCap’ technology as part of its two-year Heavy Vehicle Safety Around Ports project.

SmartCap is a wearable technology that measures fatigue. Specifically, it is a headband mounted into a cap that measures changes in a person’s electroencephalogram (EEG – measures electrical activity in the brain) and provides accurate measurements of alertness in real-time to operators and drivers.

Six transport companies – with a total of 60 drivers – are participating in the pilot. The transport companies are: Australian Container Freight Service (ACFS), Buccini Transport, Chalmers Industries, Daryl Dickenson Transport, South East Queensland Hauliers, and Visa Global Logistics.

NHVR Safety Director Greg Fill said the project received \$302,000 in funding under the NHVR’s 2018-19 Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Fund, supported by the Federal Government.

“We receive a lot of questions about the role that new technology will play in the future of heavy vehicle safety,” Mr Fill said.

“I look forward to see the results of the projects being trialled by the QTA and the Port of Brisbane and the feedback on the SmartCap technology.”

Gary Mahon, CEO of the QTA said learnings will be shared with other Australian ports.

“It’s exciting to trial the use of this product at the Port of Brisbane. The port roads have a high number of heavy vehicles using their network, making it an ideal location for the pilot.”

“It’s also great that we are able to offer industry the opportunity to use new technologies, and with SmartCap being a Brisbane-based business it demonstrates that Queensland industry is making the safety of their workforce a priority,” he said.

Peter Keyte, PBPL Chief Operating Officer said the SmartCap pilot was an opportunity for the broader port community to reinforce its commitment in helping to make Brisbane Australia’s safest port.

“Road safety is a major focus at the Port and I’d like to thank the port community for its support, and for working with us to show leadership in this space. This is the first of a number of initiatives that will be rolled out under the two-year project and we’ll continue to work with the port community as it progresses.”

The Heavy Vehicle Safety Around Ports project has identified fatigue as a key safety issue to address – while a significant issue for all road users, it is also a workplace safety issue for road transport operators.

Next year, as part of the two-year project, a health and wellbeing campaign will also be rolled out across the port precinct.

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