

MEDIA RELEASE

100% fee concession for road train operators

South Australian Budget protects farming and regional communities

The Weatherill Government will hand back at least \$1,100 to each road train operator located across regional, rural and remote areas of South Australia.

In the State Budget, the Government has decided that it will provide a 100% concession on all registration charges for 'road train converter dollies', commencing from 1 July 2012.

"The rural trucking industry is delighted by this decision," said John Beer, National President of the ALRTA.

"In recent months, we've been quite horrified by a national plan to increase registration charges for road trains by a massive 21% in a single year."

"The State Government has listened to our concerns that the planned increase was wildly excessive."

"Road train operators provide an essential freight service that supports farmers, cattle producers and rural and regional communities."

"No-one in the Bush can possibly afford a 21% increase to the cost of their freight service."

"We were able to show the State Government that the proposal, from the National Transport Commission, contained substantial economic errors."

"The Government's responded to our concerns with a very responsible, balanced decision."

"Even with this concession, road train operators will more than pay their own way and will be making a very strong contribution to State revenues" (See Attachment 1).

"I want to particularly thank the Minister for Transport, the Hon Pat Conlon," said John.

"Pat Conlon discussed this issue at length with grass-roots operators from regional South Australia and at the national level. He's worked with us in a most constructive and thoughtful way."

"We're particularly impressed that the Minister has come up a solution that doesn't undermine the agreement of all governments to set up a National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and a national registration scheme. Those are important long-term reforms that we strongly support."

What is a converter dolly?

A converter dolly is a small trailer, fitted with a turntable. It allows two, or more, semi-trailers to be joined together so as to create the classic 'road train' used in regional, rural and remote Australia.



Images: Courtesy of Byrne Trailers manufacturing coy. (byrnetrailers.com.au)

About ALRTA

- 1) The Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) represents 900 companies across regional Australia who provide the 'first and last' link of the supply chain for Australia's agricultural industries and communities.
- 2) Australian agriculture relies on ALRTA's members in order to access domestic and global markets. Almost all inputs to, and production from, Australian agriculture involves transport by truck.
- 3) The ALRTA is a member of the Australian Logistics Council (ALC), the Australian Trucking Association (ATA), and the Council of Small Businesses of Australia (COSBOA).

ATTACHMENT 1

CONVERTER DOLLY CONCESSION: ITEMISED IMPACT ON ROAD TRAIN REGISTRATION

	Current national registration fees (2011-12) (\$)	Planned national registration fees (2012-13) (\$)	Change from 2011-12 fees (\$) (%)	SA Government concession (\$)	Nett effective fee (\$)	New change from 2011-12 fees (\$) (%)
Double Road Train, comprising:-	11,438	13,857	+2,419 (+21%)	-1,100	12,857	+1,319 (+12%)
- Prime Mover	7,764	9,457	+1,693 (+22%)	0	9,457	+1,693 (+22%)
- Trailer (2 units)	1,419	1,650	+231 (+16%)	0	1,650	+231 (+16%)
- Dolly	836	1,100	+264 (+32%)	-1,100	0	-836 (-100%)
Triple Road Train, comprising:-	13,693	16,607	+2,914 (+21%)	-2,200	14,407	+714 (+5%)
- Prime Mover	7,764	9,457	+1,693 (+22%)	0	9,457	+1,693 (+22%)
- Trailer (3 units)	1,419	1,650	+231 (16%)	0	1,650	+231 (+16%)
- Dolly (2 units)	836	1,100	+264 (32%)	-1,100	0	-836 (-100%)

Figures are ALRTA estimates.
Customer services fees also apply.