

ONLINE ARTICLE

Title:	"Trucking revenue set to roll in"
Author:	Tony Allan
Date:	Tuesday, 8 May 2012
Publication:	ABC Rural
Copyright:	ABC
Address:	< http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201205/s3498393.htm >
Accessed:	Friday, 22 June 2012



Road trains at Capricorn roadhouse, north-west WA. (Dave Smith)

The Federal Government will earn almost \$700 million more over the next four years by increasing road user charges for trucks, buses and road trains.

The livestock transport industry continues to lobby against the proposed increase in the Road User fuel charge from 23.1 to 25.5 cents a litre from July, which will reduce the fuel tax credit to heavy vehicle operators.

The Budget also scraps a proposed \$50 million contribution towards expanding the Port of Darwin. Instead, the money will go towards improving the Central Arnhem and Port Keats Roads, which connect Indigenous NT communities, and roads affected by the Ichthys LNG project. The Budget papers say the diversion of the money is due to a "change of priorities" by the NT Government. Cattle company AAco has been agitating for Commonwealth and NT Government funding for improvements to the port, to assist a proposed abattoir at Livingstone, near Darwin.

There's also Budget spending that will help truckies get a rest.

About \$140 million - double the money spent so far - will go towards a program to upgrade rest areas and parking bays, mainly in regional areas, until 2018-19. So far, 236 projects have been funded under the program.

Contributions to the Black Spot and Roads to Recovery programs will continue, and the duplication of the Pacific Highway should be completed by 2016, if the NSW Government agrees to match federal funding.

The Federal Government has already announced a number of infrastructure projects that will be funded by the mining tax, particularly a range of road and port works in Queensland. Criteria for another round of funding will be announced soon.