

MEDIA RELEASE

Fifty years in the making: a National Regulator for the road transport industry

“The rural transport industry congratulates Queensland’s Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon Scott Emerson, on introducing the first part of the ‘National Heavy Vehicle Law’ to establish nationally consistent heavy vehicle laws and a single National Regulator for heavy vehicles in Australia” says John Beer, National President of the ALRTA.

“Under the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the road transport industry will have the strongest arrangement to ensure legal consistency between the States that we have ever achieved in Australia.

“In the new arrangement, the Heavy Vehicle National Law needs to be passed by the Queensland Parliament before it can be enacted by the other State and Territory Parliaments across Australia. When this is complete, it will create the first unified, and truly consistent legal framework for the trucking industry in Australia’s history.

“The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese, is working closely with the Premiers and Roads Ministers in every State to secure quick passage of the two Bills that will make up the ‘National Law’.

“The ALRTA is urging all governments to ensure that the National Regulator is in place and commences operations by 1 January 2013.

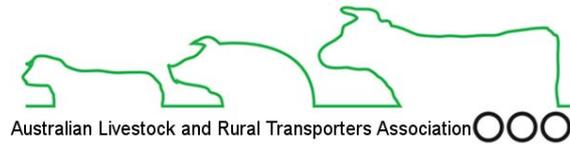
“Trucking is dominated by family-owned businesses. For many of our current members, the push to secure legal consistency was begun by their fathers. This has been a fifty year journey for the road transport industry.

“But every bit as important as completing this once-in-a-century legal reform, governments must ensure that the new National Regulator is set up with the proper skills and resources.

“The rural transport industry is looking for the National Regulator to make a visible difference in boosting productivity, increasing efficiency and improving safety in the transport industry.

“To deliver that, governments need to ensure that this new body is a truly expert agency, a specialist body that can achieve real excellence in the service it provides.

“The ALRTA is calling on all governments to ensure that the Regulator is established with a top-level CEO and expert staff. The new Regulator must have the knowledge and leadership skills to work effectively with business, the community and State governments themselves.



About ALRTA

- 1) The Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) represents 900 companies across regional, rural and remote 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).