

# ONLINE ARTICLE

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Triple road train drivers might have more rest stops, but operators fear they won't survive a registration charge hike (Caddie Brain)

Truckies say they are pleased the federal budget has established a new, permanent source of road funding.

But with a looming hike in registration charges and a 10 per cent increase in fuel excise, there's still concern nothing has been done to ease pricing pressures which have forced a number of rural transport operators to close.

A new program commits \$140 million over seven years to strengthen and upgrade road bridges and to build new and improved rest areas for Australia's truck drivers.

Combined with State and Territory matching funds, it will deliver a \$280M investment, the bulk of which will go to rural and regional highways.

Liz Schmidt from the Queensland Livestock and Rural Transporters Association says the government has listened.

"We've been lobbying government at all levels for some more rest areas throughout the State."

"The requirements for our fatigue management are that our men, or our drivers, rest and those requirements can't be met many times simply because there are no areas for these guys to stop to have a decent rest."