

ONLINE ARTICLE

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Grain truck contractors focus on safety

Another incident involving a car and grain truck occurred on our roads yesterday, this time at Dandaragan, about 150 kilometres north of Perth.

This follows last weeks five hour time out on all grain truck movements to focus on road safety.

The time out was called by the CBH Group and the grain marketer and handler also gave contractors 48 hours to highlight any safety concerns or suggestions.

Colin Tutt is the General Manager Operations for the CBH Group.

"Yeah we had an incident yesterday when a young lady came out of a farm entrance and a road train was coming along the road and swerved to go around her and just clipped the back of the land cruiser so she was very lucky that she didn't get hit head on."

"The feedback was that CBH can improve the way it performs and the way that it interfaces with the contractors so a lot of people said that there was too many holdups up country at sites and we are delaying the loading which is causing a lot of frustration and we need

to focus hard in that space and we need to communicate better with the contractors, we need to get our port discharge sorted out so it flows a lot smoother for them."

"So there was a lot of really good suggestions about us, inside CBH, sorting our work ethics out and our standards out to allow them to focus on what they need to do."

The Premier, Colin Barnett, has indicated the government may be reassessing the future of sections of the Wheatbelt grain freight network.

Farming groups have expressed strong opposition to the government's decision to shut down the tier three railway in favour of upgrading certain roads.

Mr Barnett has told ABC Local Radio, the issue is being examined further.

"We are looking at some lines and I think you'll probably hear something from the Transport Minister in the next few weeks about how we can alleviate. Because I agree with you, we want less trucks on the roads not more. But there's also the situation of simply the viability of some of those lines, and if they don't work out then there's going to have to be a bit of a better mix."

Colin Tutt said he did not have any more detail on what the Premier revealed.

"I was really pleased to hear what the Premier said because rail is just crucial in moving grain to port and we've actually seen that this year. To move these big crops out we just need to have a percentage of the crop moving on rail so his comments yesterday were very, very pleasing."

Colin Tutt, general manager operations with CBH Group.