

MEDIA RELEASE

\$10M for livestock saleyard safety

The Commonwealth Government has announced that it will invest \$10M over two years to improve safety at livestock saleyards, and to upgrade other key facilities used by the livestock transport industry throughout Australia.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon Anthony Albanese, told the House of Representatives on Monday that the decision was taken after the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor MP asked the Government to increase funding to the *Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program*, in order to address issues faced by rural livestock drivers.

“This investment package will save the lives of our drivers,” said John Beer, National President of the Australian Livestock and Rural Transport Association (ALRTA).

“Every year, rural livestock drivers pay the cost for having to work in out-dated facilities.”

“Last year, a driver in Victoria was placed in a coma after being struck in the head by a bull when he had to load using an unsuitable ramp. From South Australia, my former national vice-president was hospitalised when he was trapped, unable to escape from a badly-designed ramp, and was run-over by three steers. In Queensland recently, one of the very best companies in my industry lost a 44 year old driver who was gored by a bull.”

“In my industry, livestock drivers are regularly asked to load cattle, sheep and pigs using stock ramps that are badly designed, badly maintained and simply unsafe to use.

“Our drivers are also regularly asked to work in facilities which have loose swinging gates and dangerous pens which don’t adequately protect the driver from the livestock.

“We’re grateful to Tony Windsor for securing action from the Government on these safety issues that face rural livestock drivers,” said John.

Funding applications under the *Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program* need to be put forward to the Commonwealth Government and the States and Territories.

“The ALRTA invites Councils and private businesses that operate saleyards and other facilities, such as long-distance transport spelling yards, to work with us in putting forward joint-submissions to the various Governments,” said John.

“Funding submissions will require the support of relevant Ministers in the roads or transport portfolios. The ALRTA has a lot of expertise in this area and, by working with the ALRTA, Councils will improve their chances of success,” said John.



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).