



Getting Regional Australia 'Back on the Road'

Priority Issues for an Incoming Federal Government

The Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) is seeking the assistance of an incoming Federal Government in 2013 to help *get regional Australia 'Back on the Road'*.

Our rural and regional economies are highly dependent on road transport. Sensible reforms can enhance productivity and safety while also supporting jobs and economic growth in regional Australia.

There are three reform priorities:

1. **Improving road access for high productivity vehicles (HPV);**
2. **Establishing fairer charging mechanisms for heavy vehicles; and**
3. **Enhancing the rural and small business environment.**

Priority 1: Improving Road Access for High Productivity Vehicles

Improved access can be achieved by:

- Recognising HPVs as a necessary part of addressing the freight challenge.
- Assessing and reporting on the current state of the road network.
- Integrating data collection, demand forecasting and decision making.
- Identifying and fixing critical infrastructure bottle necks.
- Improving the number, location and quality of HPV friendly rest areas.
- Demanding that incremental expansion of the HPV network is a key goal in network planning.
- Mandating the Ministerial Guidelines for road access decision making.
- Establishing an independent third-party to review access decisions.

Priority 2: Fairer Charging for Heavy Vehicles

Fairer charging can be achieved by:

- Decreasing upfront registration fees and increasing the fuel-based road user charge.
- New measures to prevent the overcharging of road trains.

Priority 3: Enhancing the Rural and Small Business Environment

An enhanced business environment can be achieved by:

- Establishing a national ramp standard for livestock loading.
- More reasonable responses to animal welfare incidents in overseas markets.
- Abolition of plans to impose a carbon tax on road transport from 1 July 2014.
- Rewarding transport operators for safety and environmental improvements.
- Providing targeted incentives to kick-start rural economies and small businesses.

We commend these priorities to an incoming Federal Government.

The ALRTA offers our vision, expertise and advice on these and any other rural transport matters.

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A full copy of the ALRTA's plan for reform can be obtained via the contact details below:

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