



2 May 2014

Prepared by Mathew Munro



## ALRTA PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

*I have been in Canberra this week to carry out Mathew's 12 month review. I have spoken to most of the Executive who were generally happy with how things have been going during Mat's first year with us. Mat has also indicated that he has been enjoying the position. He and I spent some time going over the past year, his thoughts and our thoughts and getting a feel for issues going forward. We then spent some time with Andrew 'white boarding' a possible plan for determining our priorities for the next year that we can put to Council at our next meeting. While in Canberra I have also picked up my 'access all areas' hall pass at Australian Parliament House - so it's "look out pollies - here I come!"*

*The LTASA / ALRTA joint conference in Adelaide is drawing closer and I would encourage all members to register. We have lined up a number of speakers and the LTASA team have a great conference planned.*

*I understand the NHVR Board is interviewing for the new CEO. I would love to be a fly on the wall in that room! Let's hope we get the right person to drive the organisation in the direction that has been envisaged for almost 3 decades.*

*We have a contingent going to the Remote and Regional Transport Forum in the Alice in mid-May and I am also involved in the bi-annual Transport Minister's meeting taking place the following day. I look forward to what comes out of that. Of particular interest is the decision about whether the states will agree to reducing charges on industry as recommended by the NTC or whether they will continue to keep their hands in our pockets by charging us above the recommended charges? I would hope that common sense and fair play will prevail and that they will stop stealing from industry. Every time that the NTC has recommended increases they are immediate, however, now for the first time the recommendation is that the charges be reduced, the states are reluctant to follow through even though they know it is wrong.*

*There is news of some changes at the Secretariat that I will share in the next report. Watch this space.*

*Liz Schmidt, ALRTA President*

## ROAD SAFETY REMUNERATION ORDER – COMMENCES 1 MAY 2014

Members are again reminded that a mandatory Road Safety Remuneration Order comes into effect from 1 May 2014. I know that there are mixed opinions about the Order across the industry - but whatever your view it is now the law.

If you are transporting anything destined for sale in a supermarket or are engaged in long distance work you should read the 13 page order at: [www.rsrt.gov.au/](http://www.rsrt.gov.au/)

The order applies to both employee drivers and owner-operators and imposes new requirements on employers, hirers and other supply chain participants. Among other things it mandates:

- Written [Contracts](#) between drivers and employers/hirers;
- [Safe driving plans](#) (long-distance only);
- Work Health and Safety [Training](#);
- [Drug and alcohol policy](#);
- [Payment time](#) of undisputed amounts to drivers.

The order also specifies the minimum content of contracts and safe driving plans - so even if you already have these you should review them against the Order to make sure you are compliant.

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Several organisations have held briefing sessions on the Order (e.g. ATA NSW) and others are planned. VTA is holding Regional Road Safety Compliance Workshops in Victoria. The workshops will provide advice on what RSRO means for your business. The Workshops are being held in Wangaratta (6/5), Shepparton (7/5), Warrnambool (12/5), Geelong (14/5) and Traralgon (23/5). To attend, please complete the online registration form by clicking [HERE](#).

The ALRTA has been investigating how we can provide material resources to assist members in complying with the Order. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide guidelines or templates for developing compliant contracts and safe driving plans in the near future.

Members should also be aware that the Federal Government has initiated an independent review of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal and parts of the Order are under separate legal challenge. For now, the law is the law and you should take immediate steps to comply. However, it is wise to take a flexible approach to any changes given that future requirements are still uncertain.

## CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The ALRTA recently attended the final meeting of the NTC Chain of Responsibility Task Force which has made recommendations to Australian Transport Ministers for consideration in May 2014.

It is fair to say that the Task Force had a difficult time identifying areas of clear agreement between industry and government representatives.

Stakeholders broadly supported extending CoR to include vehicle roadworthiness, identifying parties in the chain by role rather than title, improving consistency and clarifying responsibilities.

However, there was a wide diversity of opinions on other important matters such as the scope of duties, the onus of proof, director liabilities, enforcement powers and industry codes of practice.

So what does this all mean?

In the short term, the current chain of responsibility laws will not change fundamentally.

It is however possible that Ministers will 'in principle' support extending CoR to include vehicle roadworthiness. In practice, this will require yet another consultative process to determine the best way for this to occur.

## 2014 COMBINED STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The combined LRTASA and ALRTA National Conference will be held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on 13-14 June 2014.

Official proceedings will be opened by South Australian Transport Minister, Stephen Mullighan MP, and a keynote address will be made by Federal Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Jamie Briggs MP. There will of course also be several other industry leaders and dignitaries speaking on topics important to your business such as charging, national regulation and productivity improvements.

It's not all work though. The social program includes a golf competition, our National Sponsors Dinner (Friday) and a Gala Dinner / Auction (Saturday).

A conference booklet is available on the LRTASA website which outlines the preliminary program and accommodation options: [http://www.ltasa.com.au/lrta\\_sa\\_2014\\_conference](http://www.ltasa.com.au/lrta_sa_2014_conference)

I look forward to seeing you there!

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