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## HOLDING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS TO ACCOUNT

The degree to which the current chain of responsibility laws can hold senior managers and executive officers to account is often talked about. Most operators I speak to reckon there is too much focus on the driver and operator and not enough on those further up the chain.

Not many operators would be aware that the Council of Australian Governments has approved a set of guidelines for applying personal liability for corporate fault. These are intended to be applied consistently across all Australian legislation. The NTC has reviewed the Heavy Vehicle National Law against the guidelines and found that of around 300 offences currently applying to executive officers, very few of these fully adhere to the guidelines – possibly as few as 17.

While removal of 'return of permit' type offences would be of little consequence, removal of other safety related offences (even by way of collapsing these into a single offence) is likely to reduce the accountability of executive officers when most drivers believe that it should be increased.

The ALRTA has argued that such changes could only be made as part of broader package in which any reduction in the scope of offences is offset by new positive duties, general duties, increased penalties or improved investigative powers to ensure that executive officers are sufficiently motivated to take all reasonable steps to prevent breaches of the HVNL.

Work is already underway on many of these issues and no changes should be recommended to Ministers until such time as stakeholders can agree upon an overall package that enhances chain of responsibility rather than diminishing it.

## RAMPING IT UP

The ALRTA chaired the first meeting of the newly formed supply-chain working party to progress the development of ramp design guidance material. The meeting follows a workshop earlier in the year at which over 40 livestock industry participants considered the key issues and priorities moving forward. Work is progressing quickly with risks and hazards now being considered as part of a spectrum of ramp designs. The group will meet again at the end of August.

## LRTAV CONFERENCE 8-9 AUGUST 2014

The LRTAV Conference will be held next week 8-9 August in Ballarat, Victoria. As usual there will be an engaging program, great food and entertainment. Early registrants have a chance to win an iPad courtesy of Beaufort. Click [here](#) to register. See you there!

## ALRTA COUNCIL MEETING AND AGM

Members are advised that the next ALRTA National Council Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held next week in Melbourne on 7 August 2014. As always, members are invited to attend and observe proceedings. Please contact the ALRTA Office for more details.

## ALRTA STEPS FORWARD

Today is a special day in the history of the ALRTA. Your association is now fully independent with direct control of our own staff and resources. We thank and farewell HGH Consultants, particularly Mr Andrew Higginson, for more than 20 years of dedicated service.

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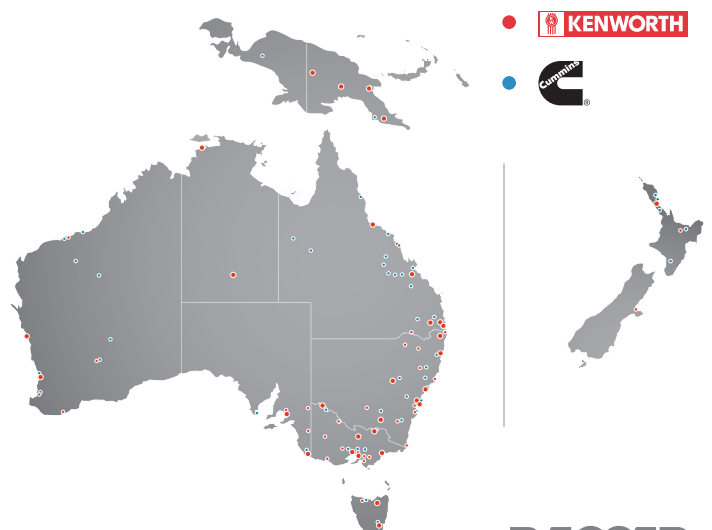
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