

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## INCREASE FUEL TAX CREDITS IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The Australian Government should increase the trucking industry's fuel tax credits by 1.04 cents per litre in the Budget, the Chief Executive of the Australian Trucking Association, Stuart St Clair, said today.

Trucking businesses can claim fuel tax credits through their business activity statements: an increase in fuel tax credits is effectively a tax cut.

The increase is one of the recommendations in the ATA's 2014-15 pre-budget submission.

"The trucking industry pays for its use of the roads through fuel tax and very large registration charges. The industry has been overcharged since 2007, though, because the system used to calculate them underestimates the number of trucks on the road," Mr St Clair said.

"As a result, trucking operators will be overcharged by \$800 million in 2013-14 alone.

"The National Transport Commission, which determines the taxes and charges applied to the industry, has now recognised that we pay too much.

"It released a draft regulatory impact statement last year proposing important changes to the way the charges are calculated. Under its option A, operators would be able to claim an extra 1.04 cents per litre in fuel tax credits.

"The Australian Government should include this option in the Budget. It's now confirmed that trucking operators are overcharged: the Government needs to act," he said.

The ATA submission recommends that governments should slash truck registration charges in the longer term, with an adjustment to the industry's fuel tax credits to compensate for the lost revenue.

"The industry's high registration charges make it difficult for small trucking businesses to manage their cashflow. We also know that operators find it easier to recover fuel costs from their customers, rather than registration charges," Mr St Clair said.

The submission argues the Government should provide the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) with an extra \$4.3 million over four years to establish national databases of coronial recommendations about road safety and serious heavy vehicle accidents.

"Setting up these databases would be the first step toward the ATSB taking on the role of investigating serious truck crashes and making safety recommendations," Mr St Clair said.

"The ATSB is known throughout the world for its air safety investigations. It's also responsible for investigating marine and some rail accidents. The ATSB needs to be able to investigate serious truck crashes as well, so we can keep pushing the number of accidents down," he said.

The submission is available at [www.truck.net.au/advocacy/submissions/2014-15-pre-budget-submission](http://www.truck.net.au/advocacy/submissions/2014-15-pre-budget-submission).

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