

MEDIA RELEASE



25 National Circuit
FORREST ACT 2603
Tel: (02) 6253 6900
www.truck.net.au

10 April 2016

ATA APPLAUDS PRIME MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO ABOLISH RSRT

Australia's biggest industry body representing owner-drivers has come out in strong support for the Prime Minister's announcement that a re-elected Coalition Government will abolish the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal.

This morning the Prime Minister made the joint announcement with Minister for Employment Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash and Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon. Darren Chester MP.

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) is the peak body that represents trucking operators. ATA Chief Executive Chris Melham said enough is enough.

"The ATA has been urging the Government to repeal the Act and abolish the Tribunal as a matter of urgency and today the industry feels like it has been heard," Mr Melham said.

"We commend the Prime Minister on confirming that legislation will be introduced in the next sitting to suspend the current order. However, the ATA will support any move that can abolish the Tribunal in this sitting."

Mr Melham has urged all political parties to support the Government's Bill to delay the implementation of the Order.

"The Australian Trucking Industry already has the most comprehensive road safety 'watchdog' in the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). It already polices trucking companies to ensure safe driving practices," he said.

"The pain isn't going to stop for tens of thousands of owner-drivers until the Senate passes legislation to repeal the Road Safety Remuneration Act and abolish the Tribunal."

Mr Melham also welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement to bolster the funding of the NHVR by redirecting monies from the RSRT to the NHVR.

"The ATA strongly supports measures that have genuine impacts on safety, because even one accident is one too many," he said.

"The Heavy Vehicle National Law is seeing a consistent and constructive approach to improving real safety outcomes through fatigue, speeding and loading requirements.

"The ATA has successfully lobbied for major changes to the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws that cover businesses in the road freight transport supply chain.

"As we said in our letter to the Prime Minister last week, safety is the trucking industry's first priority, but the road safety remuneration system has not and will not improve safety outcomes at all.

The only effective solution to dealing with the remaining small recalcitrant minority of the industry who choose not to comply with the law is to ensure effective enforcement of the CoR laws including by closing the remaining gap in the law with the anticipated CoR laws on Roadworthiness."

Media contact:

Kathleen Horne

02 6253 6900 / 0409 524 120

A safe, professional and viable trucking industry