

MEDIA RELEASE



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

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TRUCKING INDUSTRY WELCOMES BUDGET ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

The Australian Trucking Association has welcomed the practical road safety measures in the 2017-18 Budget, released this evening.

ATA Chair Geoff Crouch said the Government had continued funding its critical road safety infrastructure programs in line with its election commitment.

“The Government was re-elected in 2016 with a commitment to continue funding the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity, Roads to Recovery, Black Spot and Bridges Renewal programs beyond 2019-20,” Mr Crouch said.

“These programs are highly cost effective and deliver safety improvements such as truck rest areas, roundabouts and street lights at dangerous places on our roads. Meanwhile, the Bridges Renewal Program is upgrading bridges that are critical to truck access to local communities.

“The 2017-18 Budget confirms that these programs will continue through to 2020-21. Their safety benefits will continue to flow.”

Mr Crouch welcomed the extension of the keys2drive program, which is run by the Australian Automobile Association and its member associations. keys2drive provides a free coaching session to learner drivers and their supervisors. The Budget allocates \$16 million to the program over the next four years, which will deliver some 200,000 lessons.

“The ATA has worked with the AAA to seek funding to expand the program to include information about how to share the road safely with trucks. Learner drivers need to understand the importance of staying out of truck blind spots, not cutting in and not overtaking trucks when they are turning.

“We urge the Government to go ahead with this expansion, now it has made the threshold decision to continue the program.”

Mr Crouch said the Budget continued the Government’s support for small business.

“The vast majority of trucking businesses are small businesses. 94 per cent have a turnover of \$2 million or less,” Mr Crouch said.

“The Government’s decision to extend the instant asset write-off to 30 June 2018 will benefit many eligible businesses.

“We also welcome the \$300 million incentive to the states and territories to cut their red tape. Much of the red tape affecting trucking businesses is at state or territory level. We’d like to see the new National Partnership for Regulatory Reform cut our red tape burden and so we can spend more time focusing on moving Australia’s freight safely and productively,” he said.

Media contact:

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