



9 September 2016

Klausch Schmidt  
Industry Manager  
Australian Industry Standards  
Via email [enquiries@australianindustrystandards.org.au](mailto:enquiries@australianindustrystandards.org.au)

Dear Mr Schmidt,

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Industry and Training Issues Paper for the Transport and Logistics IRC, and to contribute to the development of the four year Workplan for the Transport and Logistics Training Package.

From the perspective of the trucking industry, training and assessment of heavy vehicle licensing is the most significant skills and workforce development issue. Our members have identified improving driver training as their top safety priority, and we understand that Austroads will shortly commence a national review of the national heavy vehicle driver competency standards.

Accordingly, the ATA considers that the two highest road transport priorities on the T&L RC's work plan should be to:

- **address the concerns of the trucking and driver training industries about the quality of heavy vehicle driver training, and**
- **liaise with Austroads and implement any changes to the driver training packages that are required as a result of the national heavy vehicle driver competency review.**

Whilst there are many excellent trainers, others train to a price and can be more focused on how long a course will take, and not on the level of competency attained. This contributes to a highly variable quality of training and assessment of truck drivers. Operators are particularly concerned about the variable quality of training in chain of responsibility, load restraint, fatigue management and work health and safety.

The issues paper does reference a number of issues and drivers relating to the growth and changes brought about by technology. Some factors within industry that contribute to the need to update and adapt technology involve reducing time and costs spent on data entry, providing customers with real time access to track products, improved cost tracking on a job by job basis, and improved engagement with a mobile workforce. These factors present increased training needs for industry such as in the use of new devices and software, and in device and data management for businesses.

Whilst emerging technological changes do affect the skills and workforce development for the trucking industry, it is the inconsistent training and assessment of heavy vehicle licensing that is a major concern. Providing for a common and competent base to driver and license standards would address the most significant skills and workforce development issue for industry.

The ATA contact for this letter is Samuel Marks, Policy Officer, on (02) 6253 6900 or email [samuel.marks@truck.net.au](mailto:samuel.marks@truck.net.au)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Melham', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Melham  
Chief Executive Officer