



Australian Road Transport  
Industrial Organisation

ABN: 63 734 697 902

# AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION

*Respect, Respond and Represent*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**27 October 2017**

## **ATO reinstates *Meal by Meal* approach in revised 2017/18 Tax Determination**

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has agreed to reinstate the former *Meal by Meal* approach used to determine claimable meal expenses for drivers working away from home for the 2017/18 financial year.

The decision follows a concerted effort led by the Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation, representing the VTA and the other State Associations, and in conjunction with the ATA and TWU for the previous determination to be overturned, on the basis it was announced with no consultation with industry, and would have left drivers significantly out-of-pocket in relation to legitimate work expenses.

The meal amounts feature in a revised Taxation Determination 2017/19, and follow the approach for Tier 2 country centres by providing the following separate amounts for each meal. The amounts are:

<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>DINNER</b>
\$24.23	\$27.65	\$47.70

ARTIO Secretary/Treasurer Peter Anderson said the common-sense decision was a win for drivers working long hours away from home, who would face less pressure to make poor meal choices just to save money.

“The ATO’s revision means drivers will have more to spend on healthy meal options, which are typically much more expensive than fast-food alternatives,” Mr Anderson said. “It also will reduce the financial pressure on drivers and their families, who are dealing with rising living costs at a time when wage growth is generally flat.”

Operators should note the ATO does not limit the amount a driver can claim when travelling away from home overnight for work, and drivers do not have to keep receipts for every meal if their claim does not exceed the reasonable amounts the Commissioner publishes each year. Drivers can only claim for amounts spent and not just the Commissioner’s reasonable amount. Bank statements showing purchases can be used to verify expenses.

Industry associations rallied together in recent months for the previous determination, which would have reduced by 43% how much drivers could claim for meal expenses whilst working away from home, to be overturned.

“We welcome and appreciate the ATO’s willingness to engage with the industry on this important matter, and look forward to future and ongoing consultation to simplify record keeping requirements for drivers,” Mr Anderson said.

**Ends...**

**For further information please contact Brian O’Neil on 0411 055 284.**

### **ARTIO National**

PO Box 5, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205

T 03 9646 8590 | E [reception@vta.com.au](mailto:reception@vta.com.au)

### **State Branches**

**ARTIO VIC** PO Box 5, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205  
**ARTIO QLD** PO Box 325, Stones Corner, Queensland 4120  
**ARTIO NSW** PO Box 277, Hurstville, New South Wales 2220  
**ARTIO WA** PO Box 1929 Malaga WA 6944  
**ARTIO TAS** PO Box 728, Riverside, Tas. 7250

T 03 9646 8590  
T 07 3394 4388  
T 02 9579 2333  
T 08 9355 3022  
T 0427 366 742

E [reception@vta.com.au](mailto:reception@vta.com.au)  
E [admin@qta.com.au](mailto:admin@qta.com.au)  
E [hughmc@artionsw.com.au](mailto:hughmc@artionsw.com.au)  
E  
E [ed@tta.org.au](mailto:ed@tta.org.au)