



Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

ARTIO Rejects Fair Work Bill Amendment on Long Distance Transport Operations

The Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation (ARTIO), which represents over 400 member companies engaged in long and short haul transport operations, opposes the inclusion of 'Safe Driving Plans' and related paperwork in the modern award system.

It appears as though this matter has been included in the Government's Fair Work Bill at the last minute as a concession to the union movement, particularly the Transport Workers' Union of Australia (TWU) and its NSW Branch.

The proposed amendments to the Fair Work Bill would allow for the adoption of the NSW Mutual Responsibility for Road Safety Award Provisions, which would simply add to the cost of long distance transport without any productivity or efficiency improvements.

ARTIO's Secretary/Treasurer, Philip Lovel, stated:

“ The transport industry is already highly regulated through OH&S and road laws in all States & Territories dealing with the management of heavy vehicle driver fatigue & safety. These laws include the national heavy vehicle driver fatigue reform laws introduced last year in SA, Victoria, NSW & Queensland, and well- established OH&S laws in WA and NT.”

By contrast, the existing industrial provisions dictating the need for “safe driving plans” for long distance transport operations in NSW simply add a layer of paperwork bureaucracy without any additional safety or fatigue management benefits.

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Therefore, we see no need to include such requirements in the Award modernisation process.

As a major stakeholder in the transport industry, ARTIO is extremely disappointed that it was not consulted on these proposals and calls on the Government to involve all stakeholders to be fully involved in such consultations.

“We need to look at the whole regulatory picture and avoid duplication, The new modernised transport awards don’t need these provisions relating to long distance transport employees.” concluded Mr. Lovel.

For further information or comment please contact Paul Ryan on 0415 331 031.