

Transport for New South Wales

From the Chair, Senator Glenn Sterle to Mr Bernard Carlon, Executive Director, Centres for Road Safety and Maritime Safety, Transport for New South Wales:

1. Was the incident on the M5 in Sydney in February 2016 where RMS officials had to reverse a B-double and/or uncouple the trailer because the foreign workers driving the truck were unable to do so brought to the Minister's attention by Transport for NSW? If not, why not?

Refer to RMS advice on this question (questions 15 - 18).

2. Does Transport for NSW alert the Minister when incidents like this occur? If not, why not?

Refer to RMS advice on this question (questions 15 - 18).

3. Did the Minister's office make contact with Transport for NSW at the time of this incident or at a time thereafter?

Refer to RMS advice on this question (questions 15 - 18).

4. Does the Minister's office make contact with Transport for NSW when similar incidents like the one on the M5 occur?

Refer to RMS advice on this question (questions 15 - 18).

5. If RMS officials were called in to assist these drivers because they were unable to drive and manage the truck they were driving, why did the RMS officials on site allow the foreign nationals to drive away from the scene of the accident?

This is a matter for RMS.

6. In relation to this incident, it was the police who made the decision to allow these drivers to continue on their journey despite not being able to reverse or uncouple the truck. The RMS inspector who attended the incident had no power to revoke the drivers licence despite the fact that the driver's incompetence was the reason the RMS inspector was there in the first place. Do you believe that RMS inspectors should have the power to revoke licences on the spot if they believe the holder of that licence is clearly incompetent?

This is a matter for RMS.

7. Do you believe that there are flaws in the current training and assessment process for drivers wanting to obtain a heavy vehicle drivers licence?

Refer to RMS advice on this question (question 19).

8. Are you aware if the Federal government is doing anything towards delivering a national harmonised licencing system for drivers wanting to obtain a heavy vehicle licence?

No.