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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Senate's **inquiry into the importance of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry.**

I represent SmartCap Technologies Pty Ltd, an Australian business that provides fatigue monitoring technology to the road transport industry in Australia and exports to a global market. Our business is committed to making roads safer for all by empowering professional drivers and businesses with real-time alertness monitoring, early warning alerts, and fatigue risk alarms.

Throughout our 10 years of operations, we've helped businesses eliminate fatigue incidents from their operations, and provided powerful insights to guide fatigue policies and identify individuals that require assistance to manage their fatigue.

My submission, for the Committee's kind consideration, primarily addresses two of the key terms of reference, namely:

(c) the regulatory impact, including the appropriateness, relevance and adequacy of the legislative framework, on all stakeholders in the road transport industry; and

(g) the impact of new technologies and advancements in freight distribution, vehicle design, road safety and alternative fuels.

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### The impact of new technologies on road safety

With millions of hours of data representing more than 15 billion kilometres of driving using our fatigue monitoring solution, I can say with overwhelming confidence that **real-time monitoring technologies focused on lead indicators of fatigue can dramatically improve road safety.**

The clear outcomes achieved highlight what is well understood about driver fatigue:

1. Fatigue risk is impacted by many factors beyond sleep quantity, sleep quality, and hours of service;
2. Despite training, an individual's ability to self-assess fatigue risk is insufficient to prevent microsleeps and subsequent accidents; and
3. The combination of self-management and early intervention, in almost all cases, allows a driver to continue/complete a journey without impact on delivery timelines.

I respectfully submit that **the use of real-time monitoring technologies by road transport carriers should be encouraged and formally recognised** as an effective risk mitigation strategy.

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### The regulatory and legislative framework

Through our interactions with road transport carriers around Australia we routinely hear opinions that the current hours-of-service (HoS) regulations:

- Don't reflect best practice in fatigue management;
- Don't factor in other risk mitigation strategies, including but not limited to the use of fatigue monitoring technologies; and
- Can negatively impact a drivers' ability to reach a safe and comfortable place to rest and recover (in instances where their "hours run out just minutes short of the next town").

I respectfully submit that **the use of real-time monitoring technologies that provide lead indicators of fatigue should be incorporated into in fatigue management regulations** to allow greater flexibility for carriers to maintain safe and efficient operations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's important deliberations, and for its efforts to work towards keeping our road transport industry viable, safe, sustainable and efficient.

Sincerely,

Tim Ekert  
Chief Executive Officer

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