

NATIONAL ROAD FREIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



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Parliament of Australia,
House of Representatives,
Standing Committee on Infrastructure & Communications,

Inquiry Into The Road Safety Remuneration Bill 2001 & The Road Safety (Consequential Amendments & Related Provisions) Bill 2011, namely "Safe Rates Issue".

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the published invitation for submissions regarding the proposed "Safe Rates for the Transport Industry"

I am currently employed as a Transport Operator with Steve Martin Transport and have over the previous 42 years been involved in this industry twice on my own account. Once as a long distance subcontractor and once as a low mileage intrastate prime contractor.

The road transport industry has so many varied operations that I feel I am qualified to say it is nigh on impossible to set a safe rate. Take the line haul B/Double operator for instance, he travels on 99.5% sealed roads and averages 350/400000 klm per year @ about 1.9 klm/ltr. You on the other end have the rural operator such as my employer who runs 2 and 3 trailer road trains and we cover an average of 75/120000 klm per year on 45% sealed roads and our fuel consumption ranges from 1.6 klm/ltr to .75 klm/ltr depending on conditions. Further more we buy and sell our specialised freight so to the layman with all due respect it would be impossible to set our rates. Also our 3 trailer road train is worth \$700000 so our fixed overheads are far higher.

There are several others from our Association who have had far more time than I to prepare a submission and whom I believe would submit much more information than I can in this letter however one thing I will say and that is I do believe there is a need for regulation of some type in the long haul subcontract industry but even that is so varied I believe it would be an extremely difficult task to undertake. The most valuable legislation subcontractors could receive would be maximum 14 days payment and paid waiting time to unload if held more than 2 hrs from nominated eta.

Thanking you

Russ Martin

Contact RUSS MARTIN (Queensland Delegate)