

September 1999



**The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia**

**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Communications, Transport
and the Arts**

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Mr Paul Neville MP

Deputy Chair

Mr Steve Gibbons MP

Members

Mr Gary Hardgrave MP

Mr Colin Hollis MP

Hon David Jull MP

Mr Peter Lindsay MP

Mr Stewart McArthur MP

Mr Frank Mossfield AM MP

Mr John Murphy MP

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Media Release

Public round table discussions

The Fatigue Frontline

Managing fatigue in transport inquiry

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts will be taking the issue of fatigue in transport to the community with a series of informal and public round table discussions to be held in:

Guyra 14 September 1999

Armidale 15 September 1999

Kempsey 16 September 1999.

Mr Paul Neville MP, Chair of the committee, **said**:

'The issue of fatigue is a community issue. Ultimately, the whole community is responsible for fatigue. In these discussions the committee will be visiting a number of communities that are on the frontline of the fight against fatigue. This is particularly so in transport.

The Armidale–Guyra, and Kempsey areas are high risk areas for fatigue related accidents, being situated midway between Brisbane and Sydney. The committee will be seeking the views of members of the local emergency services, truck drivers and the public on ways to address this pressing problem.

In Guyra, we will be talking with drivers at a major highway truck stop to hear their views on managing fatigue. The committee also will hear about the plans to develop a new concept for truck stop facilities. This development will assist truck drivers to better manage fatigue by providing a state of the art facility for drivers to rest, change over and maintain their vehicles.

In Armidale and Kempsey the committee will be speaking to emergency services personnel. These people face the realities of fatigue related accidents year after year. Their views are directly relevant to the inquiry.'

Further, **Mr Neville said**

'By going to communities such as Guyra, Armidale and Kempsey, the committee wants to get a feel for the realities of fatigue. We believe that the people of these communities have much to offer by way of ideas on how to tackle the problem of driver fatigue.

Committee members want to recognise and discuss the positive initiatives being developed and implemented in the transport industry. We also want to identify any shortfalls and recommend to the parliament how any gaps might be plugged.

The community needs to get behind efforts to address fatigue. A major shift in attitude, similar to that which now exists with speed and drink driving, is needed to successfully combat this problem. We are looking forward to discussing how best to manage fatigue in transport with people in Guyra, Armidale and Kempsey.'

The committee will be holding a media conference at

Armidale 15 September 1210 to 1240 Armidale Exservices Club

Kempsey 16 September 1110 to 1140 Kempsey Golf Club

In addition, interviews in Armidale and Kempsey can be arranged by calling 02 6277 4597 before the day or 0413 085765 on the day.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are listed below.

All members of the public are welcome as observers to the public hearings and round table discussions.

The public hearing, round table discussions and briefings program for Guyra, Armidale and Kempsey is attached.

Terms of Reference

In relation to managing fatigue in transport, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications, Transport and the Arts is to inquire into, and report on, the following.

- Causes of, and contributing factors to, fatigue.
- Consequences of fatigue in air, sea, road and rail transport.
- Initiatives in transport addressing the causes and effects of fatigue.
- Ways of achieving greater responsibility by individuals, companies, and governments to reduce the problems related to fatigue in transport.

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For further information

Media comment	Paul Neville MP, committee chair	07 4152 0744 02 6277 4940
Background	Adam Cunningham, inquiry secretary on the day	02 6277 4597 0413 085 765
Web site	http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/cta/index.htm	