

# MEDIA RELEASE



9 March 2011

25 National Circuit  
FORREST ACT 2603  
Tel: (02) 6253 6900  
[www.atatruck.net.au](http://www.atatruck.net.au)

## FRANK BLACK ELECTED IN TRUCKING INDUSTRY POLL

**Frank Black** has been elected as the owner driver representative on the General Council of the trucking industry's peak body, the Australian Trucking Association (ATA).

Mr Black, from Coopers Plains in Queensland, previously held the owner driver position from 2003 to 2009.

Mr Black said owner drivers and their families were an important sector of the transport industry, working long hours and spending long periods away from each other just to make ends meet.

"The different interpretations of laws between the states, low rates of pay, log book fines and demerit points for minor offences, rising costs and the lack of decent rest facilities need to be addressed now. Governments and associations need to understand and act on these issues," Mr Black said.

"Everyone is constantly calling for safety: governments, law enforcers, associations, and the general public. Well, we also want safety for ourselves, our families and everyone else, so we need a structure where we can make a living, look after our families and stop whipping the hell out of us with stupidity and unworkable laws and conditions.

"Over the last few years, I have been involved with others in the safe rates campaign, which has seen the federal government agree that a safe rates regime with minimum rates of pay must be legislated for owner drivers and drivers. We must now pursue this and the other issues I have mentioned vigilantly until they are implemented.

"I will not rest until governments pass laws to keep us and others safe on the roads and give us and our families a fair go," he said.

Mr Black will take up his position at the ATA's Annual General Meeting on 30 March.

79 formal votes were cast in the poll. Mr Black led the first preference count with 35 votes, compared to the next highest candidate, Allan Clark, with 28. After the two candidates with the lowest number of votes were excluded, Mr Black was declared elected with 38 out of the 74 votes remaining.

Meanwhile, industry stalwart **Doug McMillan** of Wodonga, Victoria, was re-elected unopposed as the small fleet (2-5 truck) representative on the ATA Council.

Both elections were conducted by the ACT Electoral Commission.

The detailed election results are available at [www.atatruck.net.au](http://www.atatruck.net.au)

**Media contact:** Bill McKinley 02 6253 6900 / 0488 292 823