

MEDIA RELEASE



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STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS THIS EASTER

With holiday destinations across Australia experiencing extremely high bookings over the Easter/Anzac Day period, Australian Trucking Association Chief Executive Stuart St Clair has called for motorists to **slow down and take care on the roads**.

“ATA staff at our travelling road safety exhibition, the Safety Truck, are often asked how road users can share the road safely with heavy vehicles. It’s a question particularly asked by holiday-makers who tow caravans, motorhomes or boats, who may not do this regularly,” Mr St Clair said.

“Trucks use their full lane, so if you need to pull off the road, make sure you park well clear of the roadway. If you’re approaching an oncoming truck, you should stay to the left of your lane to reduce buffeting from air turbulence.

“If a slower vehicle is being overtaken by a truck, it’s essential to **maintain your speed and stay in your lane**. It’s also helpful to slow for a moment to allow the truck to pass more easily.

“Above all, all drivers should take regular rest breaks – it’s much better to arrive safe and well rested than to rush towards an accident.”

Likewise, Mr St Clair asked truck drivers to be patient with holiday traffic.

“Trucking businesses and drivers should remember there will be more cars on the road, as well as motorists driving longer distances than normal,” Mr St Clair said.

“We all know there will be delays. Factor them in to your schedule so you don’t need to make up time in heavy Easter traffic.

“Also keep in mind that many holiday motorists will be driving on unfamiliar roads, and may be uncertain about where they need to go.”

Mr St Clair said there were a few tips that motorists and truck drivers could follow to make everyone’s Easter safer:

- **Stick to the speed limit and take regular rest breaks.**
- **Don’t start your long trip on Thursday night after a full day at work.** You can’t drive safely when you’re tired. Get a full night’s sleep before you leave.
- Please be patient if the truck in front of you slows down when it’s going up a hill. **If you plan to overtake**, wait until you have plenty of clear road ahead and pass quickly but sensibly. Don’t move back in until you can see the truck’s headlights in your mirrors.
- Truck drivers should make sure they **stay well back from the car in front**, and give themselves plenty of room to react to changes on the road.

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