



ATA Submission to NTC acting CEO George Konstandakos

11 February 2013

The Australian Trucking Association believes the NTC's priorities for road transport must include all items on the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Forward Work Plan with an appropriate priority to achieve the timeframes committed to by Ministers when they approved the NHVR Forward Work Plan.

The NTC also needs to deliver on some challenging charging reform matters in accordance with Ministers' decisions regarding a new determination. It is very important to us that our positive working relationship with the new charging team is continued and that that team is allowed adequate time and resources to deliver a new charging determination with reforms that the ATA can support.

We note the NTC's work program does not include the development of a **fitness for duty standard that includes a better, objective test for sleep apnoea**.

An objective sleep apnoea test was a key recommendation in our 2009 submission on Australian Fitness to Drive standards. This recommendation was rejected on the grounds that it belonged in a fitness for duty standard. We repeated this call when we met with Catherine King during TruckWeek last year.

Bruce Hocking raised a similar point as recently as 25 January 2013 when he gave evidence as an expert witness to the Zanuso inquest in Sydney.

We therefore ask that a **fitness for duty standard that includes a better, objective test for sleep apnoea** be included as a medium priority in the NTC's work plan. Please note our position remains that a better screening assessment for sleep apnoea in the fitness to drive standards would be preferable, but action to include such an assessment in the fitness for duty standard is favoured over no action in this area.

We look forward to working with you on advancing these reforms.

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