

## Another Government rip-off namely: Distance - Mass charge

The plans being put in place by the NTC to increase road user charges through bringing back the old 'Road Tax' under the guise of a Distance - Mass charge is yet another attack on road transport, when is the industry going to say enough is enough, this 'road tax' will be applied to road transport only and is designed to give rail a competitive edge.

I thought that under competition neutrality this was illegal, perhaps it only applies to the private sector, it is clear that we now have to compete with a government owned corporation that enjoys operational benefits promoted by the NTC that allows them to cripple the road transport industry with higher charges and restrictive regulations.

The NTC are always quick to come up with formulas that indicate road transport is under-contributing, they never look into the cost recovery formulas for rail or promote the fact that rail is a massive financial burden on the Australian tax-payers, the Adelaide to Darwin rail line has been in receivership and run at a loss ever since it was built, but governments don't learn from their mistakes and are happy to waste taxpayers money again and in doing so destroy a strong and efficient road transport industry.

Let's take this a bit further, if the NTC are successful in shifting freight back to rail and let's assume that they are able to gain 40% of the market, who will benefit most? my guess is the Multi-nationals carriers, the big end of town, the tree huggers, the anti-truck lobby the government and it's green bureaucracy to name a few.

Let me tell you **who will not see** any benefits.

The Rural Sector, I refer to the Grazers and Farmers and those transport operators, (mostly Owner Drivers and small Fleets) who provide services for these people, there are no plans to expand the rail network to include the remote areas in all Australian states, and as such people in these areas will pay a premium for their transport needs thanks to the NTC and government, these people have no sympathy for the primary producers and workers that do actually produce some product for export and the domestic markets and who contribute to the tax system so these parasites can live their lavish lifestyles without any regard for the real hardships they create for average Australians.

I think it's sad to see our Australian way of life being eroded away by non-achievers who hold positions of power in government and bureaucracy, these people couldn't survive in the real world of private enterprise and are a blight on society, from the road transport industries perspective the NTC heads up the list of incompetent non-achievers.

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