

Regulatory Impact Statement Consultation

The consultation process has begun on the Regulatory Impact Statement, which will address, amongst other things, National Regulation, the information for those interested in reading it please check this site,

http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/ris/hvreform_ris.aspx#1

Our Executive Officer, Clare Mildren, and NRFA Board members and Members attended the meeting in Brisbane, and in the North fifteen NRFA members and I attended the meeting in Townsville, also in attendance were LTAQ President Liz Schmidt, Ian Scagliotti – Admin and Commercial Manager from Neal Bros (NQ) Pty Ltd and some people I didn't know.

The debate, or should I say consultation, was very vocal and the input from all parties was very constructive, it was pleasing to see that the general consensus was to resist the move to embrace a system that didn't and couldn't guarantee that each state wasn't going to be disadvantaged.

Townsville Meeting

NRFA members in Townsville were equally as vocal and covered many possible problems associated with the proposals outlined at the meeting, it was good to get the 'grass roots operators' involved, not only for their input but so they can see firsthand the reason we need Associations, I believe that we should always be involved in these consultations and push for transparency in the decision making process.

Ian Scagliotti raised issues that Neal Bros were concerned about and Liz Schmidt supported the Qld Livestock Transport industry on issues that would impact on them.

I expect that NRFA members in livestock transport will be supporting some of the LTAQ initiatives in the near future and look forward to a co-operative approach from the LTAQ on NRFA initiatives.

The presenters at the meeting have told us that a transcript of each meeting will be on the Infrastructure website and should be on the above link within three days of each meeting, they also indicated that we will be included in future rounds and will be contacting us as the process moves forward.

Darwin

Wendy Georgette-Remkes attended the meeting in Darwin and from all accounts make her presence well known, her report to me indicated that the Darwin meeting pushed the same line as the previous two in that they don't want to embrace the proposed changes, I thank Wendy for her efforts in getting to the meeting to put the NRFA position on record.

More to Come

We will have delegates and members at all the other meetings around Australia, Peter Swift and W.A. members in Perth, Rod Marsh and S.A. Members in Adelaide, Russell Borchard and Vic Members, in Melbourne and Leo Fardell and members in Sydney and Canberra , the only State we miss out on is Tasmania as we don't have a presence there yet.

This is just the first of many reforms and regulatory processes to be imposed on the road transport industry, so you can expect to be involved in a long battle to get some sanity into this industry; with the amazing growth of the NRFA we will be in a strong position to combat the attacks.

I will keep you informed through the NRFA website.

Mick Pattel