

Inquiry into heavy vehicle safety and the use of technology to improve road safety

Answers to questions on notice

Mr Royce Christie
Group General Manager, Government Relations
Toll Group

The CHAIR: During the site visit it was obvious that in addition to the telematics there were also, as you indicated, some fairly simple measures that were involved, including convex mirrors which help to overcome the problem that was addressed through the New South Wales Government's "Be Truck Aware" video. Could you comment on the availability and ease of fixing such devices for safety purposes?

Answer: Where the convex mirrors are available as parts they can be easily installed onto equipment. It is when we need to engineer the equipment ourselves (such as mirror arms and holders) that issues and delays occur. We also need to ensure that we meet the required Australian Design Rules for each vehicle variant.

Engagement by the government with the vehicle manufacturers may assist in this area to reduce total costs and increase the speed to market for modifications such as additional mirrors, as a low cost solution.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: What procedures do you have in place to ensure that no subcontractor participating in your supply chain has corporate practices that lead to road safety issues?

Mr CHRISTIE: We run an initiation and audit process for our subcontractors. I do not know the details of that.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Can you provide any information on notice?

Answer: Consistent with its health, safety and compliance policies and standards, Toll is committed to achieving the highest possible safety standards in its road freight operations. A key factor in the achievement of this objective is to conduct a prequalification assessment of potential road freight subcontractors focusing on critical safety elements in addition to monitoring road freight subcontractors to ensure they are operating to the required standards including the identification and assessment of HSE risks.

There are two different prequalification processes depending on the nature of the engagement, ie whether it is a single engagement or an ongoing engagement. These need to be assessed by a Toll representative for their compliance or otherwise with Toll requirements. Questions are asked of potential subcontractors to ensure they meet the both legislative and Toll requirements.

Qualified subcontractors are then regularly audited to provide evidence of ongoing compliance.