

**Submission
No 5**

INQUIRY INTO HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY

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As a professional driver of 30 plus years I have 2 concerns with some of the new heavy vehicle legislations. The first is the trip plan. It is of no benefit to anyone who ha been driving for several years, and the extra paper work involves unnecessary time which could be used for work. The less time doing unnecessary paperwork helps reduce fatigue. Also it is usually near impossible to run to these plans due to the lack of rest areas, and they do not cater for enough heavy vehicles, and have no facilities. Especially in NSW, and what facilities are provided are very poor.

I would have thought that facilities needed to allow people to comply with any legislation would be provided before the legislation is passed.

Maybe a better way to do this would be for companies to issue any driver who is not sure of the route a route map with all relevant details, such as rest areas & truckstop facilities, distances between them and approximate times between them, and type of road and conditions, eg, hilly or poor roads, etc.

My second concern is in the Fatigue management. The company I work for operates under Basic fatigue management, which is reasonable except for the 7 hour minimum break. If I am tired I sleep for as long as I want, but usually the 6 hour minimum rest break is very satisfactory. I find that the extra hour is an inconvenience because if I do not feel tired or it is very hot it is uncomfortable sitting around waiting for time to pass. Also I could possibly be getting home earlier and relaxing at home and spending some quality time with my family, which is getting harder to do in this job.