

**Submission
No 3**

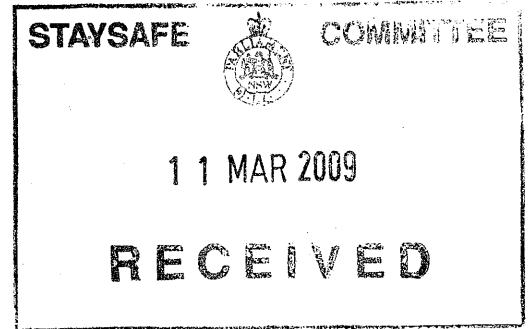
INQUIRY INTO HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY

Organisation: Private Citizen
Name: Mr Jon Russell
Telephone: -
Date Received: 11/03/2009

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10th March 2009.

Staysafe (Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety)
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
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Expression of concern regarding Heavy Vehicle Safety.

Dear Committee Members,

As a heavy vehicle driver of many years & also as a former owner operator, I offer you my concerns particularly regarding the speed of trucks operating on our roads.

On December 5th last year I purchased a new home on the NSW Central Coast & now having to drive the daily journey of the F3 Freeway Gosford to Sydney return, I'm deeply concerned at the speed at which heavy trucks are operating at upon this stretch of road.

Each day that I undertake this journey, I have heavy trucks be they Kenworths, Western Star's or what ever, tailgating me even though I'm doing the sign posted 110 kph. Heavy Trucks are by law, required to be speed limited to 100 kph maximum yet these trucks are regularly exceeding the speed limits & frightening the hell out of motorists.

On one occasion I had a semi trailer truck from "Charter Transport" go past me on the southern approach to the Hawkesbury River Bridge on the F3 while I was doing 110 kph so I kept up with him only to find he was sitting steady on 120 kph.....so I backed off & rang Charter Transport & asked for their Transport Manager who stated; Yeh but mate he's going down hill what would you expect.

Another occasion I was travelling south in the heavily sign posted 80 kph section of the F3 from Berowra to Cowan & I had two B-Double's having a racing match going past me at around 100 to 110 kph.....in an 80 kph zone?

I rang Hornsby Police only to be told by a female constable; Sir we don't have the resources, feel free to write to the Ministers office.

Yet another occasion I'm heading home (North Bound) on the F3 where again I had a semi trailer tailgating me so on arrival at Gosford I attended Brisbane Waters Police Station. Inside were three female constables having coffee. After I explained I had taken all I can from these speeding idiots, I was told; Sir, we have a car out on the F3 patrolling.....if it's really worrying you, can I suggest you call "000".

I have recently spoken with a NSW Police Inspector at Hornsby local area command; Inspector Mick Banfield who told me that he was most sympathetic to my concerns yet there was nothing he could do as they (the Police) are so grossly under resourced that they cannot effectively Police the F3 & the speeding trucks. He said he also travels the F3 daily & he's more than aware of the speed of trucks but police numbers & also the fact that there are not enough safe locations in which Police can pull these speeding trucks over, prevents them from doing their job thus leaving the truck drivers to do what they like.

NSW Law states that all heavy trucks MUST be fitted with a speed limiting device that restricts the maximum speed of the vehicle to 100 Kph.

It is commonly known in the transport industry that some (not all) truck drivers have a deactivation device fitted somewhere discreet inside the trucks cabin so that the driver can switch the speed limiter off & do what ever speed they like when it suits.

On Thursday February 26th at around 8pm, I had a B-Double trailer tailgating me on the F3 Freeway northbound. The B-Double trailers belonged to Star Track Express & were being hauled by a Kenworth Prime Mover belonging to Easter's Haulage of Brisbane. On the run down to the Hawkesbury River Bridge, the B-Double was travelling way in excess of the 110 kph that I was legally travelling at & he was showing no signs of backing off. I phoned "000" on the advice of Brisbane Water Police & gave the registration details, my name & number but heard nothing back from them. Next day I phoned Star Track Express & lodged a formal complaint, which resulted in a phone call later in the day from Mr. Ken Easter of Easter's Haulage of Brisbane. He said he would counsel the driver but the driver he said; will no doubt give a different version of events. I asked Mr. Easter how was it that if his truck was fitted with a 100 kph speed limiting device, how could it travel beyond 110 kph on the flat? No answer was offered.

Then again on the afternoon of Thursday March 5th at 5.30pm, I had a B-Double bulk powder tanker trailer belonging to Kalari Transport & based out of Victoria, overtaking me on the flat on the F3 Freeway northbound at more than the 110 kph that I was legally doing. I took off after him & watched him weave in & out of traffic across three lanes & he continued to exceed 110 kph until he came upon the hill just north of the Hawkesbury River Bridge. I phoned Kalari Transport & gave details of the truck along with my own details but no feedback was ever received from Kalari Transport.

It was only a year or two ago that a semi trailer ran down hill on the Mooney Mooney Bridge northbound & collided with a large number of cars & killed at least one person.

Can this committee please look into the following?

- The issue of speeding trucks particularly on the F3 Freeway.
- Can the committee look at having RTA Checking Stations inspect for fitment of Speed Limiting Devices on trucks.
- Can the issue of low Police numbers be looked at with particular regard to the dangerous speeds by trucks travelling on the F3?

I appreciate the attention of this committee to my concerns & I can be contacted directly to confirm or add further information to my comments if required.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Russell', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. Jon Russell

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