Submission No 2

INQUIRY INTO HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

Name: Mr Col Easterbrook

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Both of us have driven on NSW roads for more that 50 years. We have extensive experience driving on country roads, motorways and all other roads, travelling about 20,000 kms each year.

We would like to have the following suggestions implemented:

1 Speed Limits for Heavy Vehicles

The huge increase in accidents involving heavy road vehicles has occurred since speed limits for heavy vehicles were raised in NSW.

We suggest that:

- * where a maximum speed limit of 100 kph applies, the limit for heavy vehicles should be 85 kph, and
- * where a maximum speed limit of 110 kph applies, the limit for heavy vehicles should be 95 kph.

That would give heavy vehicle drivers more time to assess hazards ahead of them, allow other vehicles to overtake heavy vehicles, reduce risky overtaking, reduce stopping distances for heavy vehicles, save fuel costs for heavy vehicles and reduce stress for all drivers.

2 Use of Hazard Lights

Many accidents, including two recent very bad accidents involving heavy vehicles, occur when vehicles are stationary and another vehicle runs into the back of a stationary vehicle. Drivers should be encouraged to turn their flashing yellow hazard lights on if they are stationary at the end of a queue of other stationary vehicles on a road or if they are stationary on or alongside a road and there is a risk that a following vehicle may run up the back of them.

3 Safety Triangles

All motor vehicles should be required to carry red reflective edged triangles standing at least 30cm high and display them on or immediately behind the vehicle so they are visible to following traffic if the vehicles are stationary on or alongside a road for more than 5 minutes and there is a risk that a following vehicle may run up the back of them.

Please let us know that you have received this submission and that it will be taken into account.

Yours faithfully Col and Jan Easterbrook