



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **REPORT TABLED: INQUIRY INTO PRESSURES ON HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVERS AND THEIR IMPACT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
16 FEBRUARY 2024**

An Upper House committee has today tabled the report for its inquiry into pressures on heavy vehicle drivers and their impact in New South Wales.

The Chair of the Inquiry, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, said: 'This inquiry examined the significant pressures on heavy vehicle drivers, particularly managing fatigue and how these pressures impact road safety as well as drivers' ability to meet industry demands and legal obligations.'

The Chair continued: 'The committee also examined the availability, accessibility and suitability of heavy vehicle rest areas in New South Wales. Driver fatigue is a major safety concern for the heavy vehicle industry. Whilst the use of technology is becoming increasingly common in the industry, the strong message from stakeholders is that heavy vehicle rest areas play a significant role in supporting drivers to manage their fatigue and meet regulatory obligations.'

In addition, the committee considered the current training requirements for heavy vehicle drivers in New South Wales and found that inadequate basic training of drivers regarding height and load restrictions/limitations of heavy vehicles, and how to secure loads, is contributing to over-height vehicle incidents.

Key recommendations in the report call for the government to:

- fund and construct more heavy vehicle rest areas, and parking bays and sites, in metropolitan and regional areas in New South Wales in consultation with the transport and freight industry, to ensure heavy vehicle drivers can effectively manage their fatigue and comply with relevant regulations.
- consider funding a targeted community education campaign for light vehicle drivers on the importance of rest areas for heavy vehicle drivers to discourage their use by cars and caravans.
- endorse the introduction of competency-based driver training programs for new heavy vehicle drivers and ensure drivers issued with a heavy vehicle licence have the various skill sets and experience needed to drive, and manage, a heavy vehicle.

Ms Faehrmann concluded: 'I would like to thank all participants for their contribution to this important inquiry, including the organisations and individuals who made submissions and gave evidence at the public hearing.'

The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the [committee's webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, on (02) 9230 3771.*