



AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRAIN ASSOCIATION Inc.

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Media Release

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COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO NSW COALITION TRANSPORT POLICY WELCOMED BY INDUSTRY

The Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) has welcomed the outcomes from a meeting in Dubbo today with the NSW Opposition regarding heavy vehicle and multi-combination vehicle policy commitments if elected at the NSW election on 24th March 2007.

Coalition and Liberal Leader, Peter Debnam, NSW Nationals Leader, Andrew Stoner, and Nationals Leader in the Upper House, Duncan Gay, met with representatives from the Australian Road Train Association, to discuss issues facing the heavy vehicle industry and what the NSW Coalition will offer if elected.

"The Coalition presented us with a commonsense, no nonsense approach to helping the high productivity heavy vehicle and multi-combination sector meet the demands of a constantly growing freight task," ARTA Executive Director John Morris said.

"It was refreshing to hear the NSW Shadow Minister for Transport take the approach of asking 'why not' to innovative approaches to dealing with the freight task through vehicles such as B-Triples, AB-Triples and quad-axle vehicles – rather than the 'why' our industry seems to so constantly battle in NSW."

Amongst the pledges was the immediate abolition of the union-fundraising Blue Card, increased rest areas, and initiatives to recruit and maintain drivers in the industry.

Mr Stoner and Mr Debnam also recognised the need for a radical culture shift away from the current attitude of some bureaucrats and politicians that paints the trucking with a negative brush.

"They recognised that without trucks, NSW would come to a standstill – therefore we deserve to be treated better than the common criminals that some politicians and bureaucrats would have the public believe," Mr Morris said.

"The reality is that trucks are getting safer, drivers more professional, and roads better," Mr Morris said.

"This means a more productive transport system that ultimately means safer and better service and prices for those who rely on Australia's trucking industry – everyone.

"We are now looking to NSW Labor to take the same constructive approach in helping the NSW trucking sector meet the ever growing freight task."

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