



AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRAIN ASSOCIATION Inc.

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Media Release

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TRY RUNNING OUTBACK AUSTRALIA WITHOUT US, MS MARTIN

The Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) is calling for a fair and measured reaction to the recent accident between a road train and the Ghan in the Northern Territory, and is asking particularly politicians to not view it as an opportunity to yet again make political mileage out of the Australian trucking sector.

ARTA Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said the naked politicking of the issue by the Northern Territory's Chief Minister, Claire Martin, was unhelpful for an industry already buckling under the immense pressure of extensive government intervention.

"Ms Martin sprouting how serious a problem road trains are is simply untrue and an unwelcome sleight on our hardworking and honest industry," Mr Bremner said.

"One accident is one too many, but this was only one accident involving one truck and one driver - why has this been taken as an opportunity to question the professionalism of the entire industry?"

"Too often the trucking sector is seen as easy pickings by populist politicians. It is time the likes of Ms Martin stopped seeing the political value in scaremongering, and started recognising the role the Australian trucking industry plays in every single Australian's life."

Mr Bremner also questioned the motivation behind Ms Martin's questions.

"For Ms Martin to say she is contemplating *'additional penalties that need to be in place to make sure that what is a very regulated industry with rail is also matched by those who use crossings to cross the rail'* is one of the most outrageous and ignorant comments made by an Australian politician regarding the Australian transport sector in recent years," Mr Bremner said.

"Anybody with even a remote understanding of the Australian logistics industry knows the trucking sector is infinitely more regulated than the highly market protected and subsidised rail sector.

"It is time some of these state Labor politicians realise that without a trucking industry, the nation will come to a standstill – so they should consider working with us, rather than trying to over regulate us and ultimately choking us out of business.

"Otherwise how will *they* handle the well documented "Twice the Task" freight problems that predict a doubling of the freight task over the next 15 years?"

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