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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW RTA ON RIGHT PATH WITH CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The NSW Roads & Traffic Authority's (RTA) move to address elements of the supply chain beyond heavy vehicle operators has been welcomed as part of an overall strategy to provide a safer and more competitive environment for the trucking industry, Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said today.

"Our support of the RTA to pursue prosecutions through the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) beyond simply heavy vehicle operators arises from a desire to see safer roads and an 'even playing field' for all those in the NSW trucking industry," Mr Bremner said.

Mr Bremner said the CoR legislation was a break-through for industry in easing external pressures on heavy vehicle operators to meet unrealistic targets by making all in the supply chain accountable, and therefore efforts to enforce it had to be welcomed by the transport sector.

"We see the RTA's actions as reinforcing a core element of the CoR legislation – that it is the responsibility of everybody in the supply chain to provide a safer environment for those within it, as well as for the general travelling public who encounter the chain on the road."

Mr Bremner strongly iterated that ARTA's support was for the process of reinforcing the principle of the Chain of Responsibility legislation, and not a reflection on those facing legal action.

"As the regulators focus on the elements of the supply chain beyond the carriers, it creates another level of reducing the incentive and ability for those seeking to create an unfair competitive advantage over those who endeavour to do the right thing," Mr Bremner said.

"We will stand steadfastly with the RTA on any action that closes the temptation to overload, therefore rendering it a pointless exercise to those who may consider doing so as a means of gaining an illegal competitive edge."

Mr Bremner said ARTA would remain focussed on developing a 'grain harvest scheme' that would allow for the indeterminable factors that can result in unintentional overloading.

"ARTA remains committed to working with its industry counterparts and government to develop a system based on tolerance rather than allowance, that ensures those endeavouring to do the right thing are provided the incentive to keep doing so," Mr Bremner said.

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