



Representing all Multi-Combination Operators

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2007

## A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) extends a warm Season Greetings to its members, the wider Australian heavy vehicle industry, and the general public, over this holiday period.

ARTA offers the following suggestions to help make the road a safer place for those 'just visiting' the road, which in turn may assist those who make their living on it:

1. **BRAKING:** Always be aware that a truck requires a larger braking distance than a car – therefore take that into consideration in situations such as 'cutting in' at traffic lights.
2. **OVERTAKING:** Weigh up whether an increased risk is worth the few seconds gain to your trip. Allow plenty of room for you to pass, and pull back in only when you can see both headlights of the truck in your rear view mirror.
3. **HEADLIGHTS:** When you see the lights of an approaching vehicle or you see them flashed approaching a crest or curve, dip your lights. By waiting till you see the other vehicle before you dip you are momentarily blinding the oncoming driver. If coming up behind a truck dip early rather than when right behind. When you move to overtake don't throw your high beam on until past the trucks mirrors.
4. **NARROW ROADS:** Don't fight the truck for the bitumen. Be prepared to put your left hand wheels off the bitumen – or pull completely off – when a truck comes the other way.
6. **ROUNDABOUTS:** Roundabouts can cause problems with car drivers not allowing for the need of the truck to possibly use the entire roadway. The do not overtake turning vehicle sign applies so you should stay behind the truck. A truck will try to still be rolling on entering a roundabout, the truck is not racing but trying to lessen the delay to all traffic.

**REMEMBER:** A driver's licence is a privilege and not a right. Your attitude to others and their actions will determine whether your life on the road will be one of stress and aggression, or of safely getting home. All of us occasionally suffer from another drivers act of indifference or stupidity and only better driver education will help people to drive safer and all road users will benefit.

*(Special thanks to former Australian Trucking Association National Professional Driver of the Year and ARTA Board Member, Rod Hannifey. For further information, visit Rod's website: [www.truckright.myco.com.au](http://www.truckright.myco.com.au))*

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