

AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRAIN ASSOCIATION Inc.

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Media Release

Wednesday 21st December 2007

AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRAIN ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS NO FATIGUE BLOCKADES CALL

The Australian Road Train Association (ARTA) today said blockades were not the right way to voice protest against new fatigue regulations.

"While we cannot rule out taking some form of action, we are concerned blockades may reflect unfairly on the trucking community," ARTA Chief Executive, Duncan Bremner, said today.

"Operators need to focus their energy on those state governments who seem more interested in propping up their union colleagues through onerous red tape and compulsory union fundraisers such as the scandalous Bluecard – rather than hard working trucking professionals trying to make a living in an industry being slowly choked to death by bureaucracy."

Mr Bremner's comments came in light of the industry's peak body, the Australian Trucking Association (ATA), calling on operators to not take the law into their own hands as anger at the new laws grows across the industry.

Mr Bremner said one of the key issues was that Australia's state and federal Transport Ministers had approved the new laws – but with variations in application across some states, which will result in a loss of two working hours for most drivers.

"NSW and Victoria will not include a 'rest areas' defence for operators and drivers who have taken all reasonable measures in attempting to comply with rest requirements," Mr Bremner said.

"How an earth can our operators comply with the new laws when the governments won't even provide them with the basic infrastructure they need?"

Bremner said the safety of road train operations were frequently compromised by a lack of suitable rest areas for drivers.

"When our operators are out in their everyday working environments, it is substantially different to that of the suburban delivery driver – it can be many hundreds of kilometres before a safe and clear place can be found to pull over," Mr Bremner said.

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