




Speech By
Dale Last

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

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HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2015 and the importance that this bill has to our heavy vehicle industry not only in Queensland but also right across Australia. Having been a police officer for 25 years, I have had a lot of experience dealing with heavy vehicle investigations, with heavy vehicles involved in traffic accidents, which sometimes were fatal, and with escorting heavy vehicles throughout Queensland. Certainly I am very familiar with the important work that the heavy vehicle industry does in transporting produce around this great state. It is an industry that continues to grow and we intend to really rely upon it as we go forward.

This bill ensures that the consistent and equitable regulation of the heavy vehicle industry is maintained across participating jurisdictions. I cannot stress how important that is. I have pulled up truck drivers and asked them to produce a driver's licence or paperwork and they have said, 'Which copy would you like to see?', because they had various licences, logbooks et cetera, from across Australia. The uniformity and consistency in application across the country has made a difference in terms of safety. I cannot stress how important that is in reducing incidents involving heavy vehicles.

In the Burdekin electorate there are a number of heavy vehicle operators, from small family concerns to large companies. They perform a valuable role, particularly in the western and northern areas of the state where a lot of communities are totally reliant on road transport. Those trucks keep on rolling. In times of disaster, they have saved some northern communities by getting through with supplies, generators and that type of thing.

I have pulled up enough truck drivers and asked them for their diaries to know that the electronic work diary is a great concept. Those truck drivers get out and give you a dirty, filthy, oil covered diary that you cannot read because it has rolled around in the dirt, so it is nice to see that we are moving forward in the 21st century and that our truckies are starting to embrace technology that can only assist them and assist in the regulation of the industry, as well. I commend that particular aspect of the changes that are being put forward here today.

It is important to consider the increasing number of heavy vehicles on our roads. We often think purely of articulated vehicles, road trains et cetera. It is also important to understand that these provisions relate to agricultural machinery. In an area such as the Burdekin we see the movement of excess dimension agricultural machinery on our roads. It is important to make sure that the movement of this machinery is regulated properly and that everyone understands the rules and regulations and that we continue to apply those standards to ensure that all road users are safe. I commend this bill to the House. I certainly support the passage of this bill through the House.