




Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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### **HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill and the chain-of-responsibility laws. Heavy vehicle transport is a big issue in the seat of Condamine. The electorate comprises a large grain-growing area, cotton growing and, I am reliably informed, the heaviest concentration of livestock intensive feeding of any electorate in Australia. My electorate covers a vast range of different industries.

The transport of livestock causes the most angst in my electorate because it involves animal welfare issues. The timely loading and unloading of stock is crucially important. One of the problems that producers in my electorate have is access to feedlots and grain depots. Road trains and B-doubles are the predominant form of trucks that are used in those areas and not all roads are up to the standard of being able to carry those trucks. Some roads are permitted roads. To that end, the Western Downs Regional Council and the Toowoomba Regional Council have formed a working group that includes Transport and Main Roads, livestock carriers and general freight carriers. The NHVR also attends the meetings. They are working to identify which roads could be made as-of-right roads and the issues—whether that be a bend, an intersection, or a culvert—that are stopping heavy vehicles using those roads.

Some of those roads I have mentioned many times in this place. Bowenville-Moola Road is one that I have mentioned quite often, because there is a high concentration of feedlots around that road. I notice in today's *Toowoomba Chronicle* the federal member has announced funding to improve that road. That funding will be greatly appreciated by the residents of that area. We really appreciate the announcement of that funding. I am still looking for funding for the Oakey-Pittsworth Road. A lot of heavy transport goes along that road.

On that road, just outside Oakey, Martin's transport has a depot. Members might be familiar with Martin's transport. It is a very large transport company with about 140 trucks, predominantly transporting livestock. I heard the member for Hervey Bay talk about GPS tracking in trucks. I visited Martin's depot and met with the manager, Graeme Hoare. We went into the office where there is a big screen. That shows every truck that is travelling down the eastern seaboard—the whole 140 of them. Graeme can just press on an image of one of them and say, 'This one's in Swan Hill. It is being driven by Gary. It has to pick up cattle at so-and-so and then he is taking them to there.' He presses another one and it is a truck that is on the road. It shows the load it is carrying, its destination, how long the driver has been on the road and when he needs to take a break. The information is extraordinary and it adds to the safety of the industry.

Road responsibility goes across all industries. Chain of responsibility is everyone's business—from the person who owns the truck, to the person who is loading the truck and the person who drives the truck. I wish to highlight that it is also government's responsibility as well. If we want heavy transport vehicles to travel on these roads, we need to have them at a standard that is safe to travel on.