



Speech By
Hon. Amanda Stoker

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. AJ STOKER** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (8.14 pm): Without trucks, Australia stops—whether it is our food, our minerals, our packages or even our furniture. Members of the heavy vehicle industry are skilled people often doing technical and difficult mechanical or engineering work. It is not just truck drivers, although they very much matter in this industry, but people who cover a range of really important trades, all directed at getting you the things you need when you want them and when you need them.

Given the huge demand for skills in this industry, it has been my real privilege to work with groups like Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia and TAFE to champion the great careers that are available for men and women from all walks of life in this important and rewarding industry. Indeed, we owe it to the hardworking people who operate in this industry to make the Heavy Vehicle National Law simpler and more flexible and to make it easier for the people who work in this industry to understand and comply with all of the obligations in it. Ultimately, it is all about getting the people who work in this industry to work and home again safely.

If you live in my electorate, there is a fair chance that you do not work in this industry. Maybe you do not even know anyone who does. That is okay. This is still a bill that matters to you, because, whether you are a tradie on the road to their job, a mum doing the school run or maybe someone on their way to work in the office, you need to know that the truck drivers who drive alongside you on the highway are rested and safe. That is what this bill does. Do you want to avoid additional costs at the supermarket check-out? The steps this bill takes to help keep the trucking industry run safely and efficiently help to keep the cost of living lower for you. Do you want a country that is growing and prosperous, with more and more opportunity across the whole range of industries that make up our economy? You need every one of the producers in this country efficiently and quickly getting their product to their export market.

Again, whether you are a mum, a professional, a retiree or a tradie, better, more efficient and safe industries like the heavy vehicle industry make our whole community more prosperous. They keep downward pressure on the cost of living, and that makes a difference for you. That is why I support this bill wholeheartedly—so truckies get home sooner and safer, so young Queenslanders can see a great career in this vibrant and dynamic industry, so that we build a better, stronger economy, so that we keep a lid on the cost of transport that feeds into the cost of everything we want to be able to buy, including our food, and so that everyone, from the mum on the school run in Ormiston right through to the truckies getting their produce to market on our highways, can stay safe on our roads. I commend the bill to the House.