




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.56 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2025. I remember when the original bill was first tabled in this House back in 2012. It was a very comprehensive bill but there were certain concerns and a lot of those concerns are addressed in the bill which is now before the House. As many other members have done in this chamber, I want to thank all our truck drivers—the individuals who actually keep this country going. The trucking industry is certainly a very important cornerstone of our national economy. It is important to ensure the lives of truck drivers are safe; that their trips are safe and that all road users are safe on our road networks.

A big shout-out to a good friend of mine, Ken Wilkie, who has been a lifelong truck driver. Whilst Ken has now hung up his boots, you can never take the 'truckie' out of him. He has always been a passionate advocate for the truck driving industry and of making sure truck drivers get home safe. He would regularly ring me up to discuss matters that truck drivers would put forward when it comes to the heavy vehicle industry. He wanted to ensure safety was paramount and truck drivers were respected. This legislation highlights that it is so important to have a thriving heavy vehicle industry in this country and to have national regulation for the eastern states to ensure when you go from one regulation to the next, it is easier for the truck drivers to understand. Therefore, I certainly not only endorse the findings of the committee report but also what the minister has tried to achieve in this legislation. It creates a new flexibility for truck drivers and brings in the safety systems that are desperately needed.

To achieve these goals, the bill introduces several key measures. We will see the implementation of an enhanced accreditation framework that mandates operators to have a robust safety management system in place. That is critically important, especially with the massive road networks we have in the state of Queensland, the vast distances that we have to travel to go anywhere. If you put a map of Australia into Europe you can see what a huge country it is. Queensland has a massive road network. For instance, it is a 2,000-kilometre drive from Brisbane to Cairns. It is important that this legislation gets the stamp of approval to ensure that going forward we have a safer working environment for all road users and all truck drivers in this state.