

Question on Notice

No. 489

Asked on Tuesday, 6 August 2013

MR KATTER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (MR EMERSON)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister amend fatigue management legislation so that small contractors in the North West can be exempt from legislation designed for long haul company drivers?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Mount Isa for the question.

Long distance driving and fatigue are major concerns for road safety. No matter whether transporting general freight between regional cities or transporting agricultural products in remote areas, long driving hours will result in fatigue. It is for this reason that all fatigue-regulated heavy vehicles, no matter what they are being used for or where they are travelling, must comply with the work and rest requirements and record the driver's work and rest hours.

Fatigue regulated heavy vehicles are those heavy vehicles or combination of heavy vehicles that have a gross vehicle mass in excess of 12 tonne, or buses over 4.5 tonne gross vehicle mass designed to carry 13 or more passengers including the driver.

There will be no amendment to the fatigue legislation based on a transport operation's size or locality. All transport operators, including small contractors, have been and still are required to keep records of all work and rest hours for drivers of their fatigue regulated heavy vehicles.

Under the new National Law, heavy vehicle drivers operating outside a 100km radius from their base will be required to complete a work diary. Previously in Queensland, this has been a 200km radius, however the new laws bring Queensland in line with the other participating jurisdictions, reducing confusion for drivers.

Consultation with key industry stakeholders was ongoing throughout implementation of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator reform.

Drivers and operators of heavy vehicles in Queensland can find out more information about the changes to fatigue laws on the Department of Transport and Main Roads' website or by contacting the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator direct on 1300 696 487 (1300 MYNHVR).