



## ***Uniformity on Fatigue for Heavy Vehicles Welcomed by ALC***

The Australian Logistics Council (ALC) has welcomed the announcement on a nationally consistent approach to heavy vehicle fatigue laws by ministers of the Australian Transport Council (ATC).

“The National Transport Commission’s announcement that ATC has agreed to back a more uniform and practical approach to the way in which hours are counted for fatigue is welcomed by Australia’s freight transport and logistics industry”, said ALC Chief Executive Officer Michael Kilgariff.

“ALC has been vocal in calling for one national heavy vehicle law, administered by a single agency, which should make it easier for the industry to operate across state and territory borders.

“A national approach to the way in which hours are counted is an important part of the transport regulatory reform agenda and I am pleased that the nation’s transport ministers have reached agreement on this significant issue.

“ALC welcomes the fact that ATC has agreed to adopt the counting hours arrangements currently in place in New South Wales and Queensland, where hours are counted forward.

“This means that for the purposes of counting hours for mandatory rest breaks, hours are not counted from within rest times, but rather, they are counted forward from the last major rest break, or from the end of a relevant period of rest time.

“This approach is far more simple, fair and easy to manage”, Mr Kilgariff said.

ALC acknowledged the NTC’s appreciation of industry’s role in the fatigue negotiations, with NTC Chief Executive Nick Dimopoulos thanking industry for working constructively and proactively with government to achieve a positive outcome.

“The most effective way to put in place more consistent and uniform rules for Australia’s heavy vehicles is through industry and government working closely together, as the announcement demonstrates” Mr Kilgariff said.

“ALC looks forward to continuing to work on behalf of Australia’s freight transport and logistics industry to put in place a national heavy vehicle system that maximises efficiencies across national supply chains, and makes it easier for businesses to operate Australia-wide, across all state and territory borders”, he said.

Mr Kilgariff said he noted NTC’s reminder that these changes will only come into effect once the relevant state and territory governments pass the revised legislation.

“This reinforces the need for government and industry to remain focussed on ensuring the legislation is fit-for-purpose and that the timetables are met”, he said.

To view ALC’s submission on the draft Heavy Vehicle Law and accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement, [click here](#).

Ends.

10 June 2011.

For further information contact Michael Kilgariff of ALC on 0418 627 995.

*The Australian Logistics Council is the peak national body representing the major and national companies participating in the Australian freight transport and logistics supply chain.*