



The Hon Warren Truss MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure
and Regional Development
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

We are writing to you collectively as industry attendees at meetings of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (TIC) to seek your support to further improve the relationship between industry and ministers.

We are grateful for the opportunity to attend council meetings and are committed to working collaboratively with ministers and senior officials to provide the best outcomes for all Australians. We share ministers' passion for improving the safety and productivity of our transport system, which is a key driver of economic prosperity for the nation.

We believe our involvement in the meetings has helped improve the relationship between industry and governments, provided you with reliable grassroots insights and allowed us all to have better informed discussions at the council. Above all our involvement has demonstrated a high degree of trust in the professionalism and integrity of the industry participants – and we believe that trust has been fully repaid.

Our concern, though, is that we provide comment to ministers on papers we have not seen. The agenda paper provides no detail. The verbal briefings we receive from your department, although welcome, cannot sufficiently cover the material being discussed.

We acknowledge ministers' concern that some material needs to remain confidential, and we do not wish to impede the open consideration of sometimes difficult decisions.

We have considered a number of possible solutions to this challenge, which could include:

- providing a separate, but still fairly comprehensive, briefing pack to industry attendees or
- providing industry attendees with a considerably more detailed agenda than we receive at present or
- arranging for industry attendees to receive a detailed briefing from the NTC on its agenda items, in addition to the existing briefing from the department. This would enable us to understand the details of the NTC's policy proposals better or
- providing industry attendees with a copy of the agenda papers – excluding confidential papers – at the start of each meeting and then collecting them at the end.

We would appreciate you allowing us to work with the secretary of your department to come up with a formal proposal for you to consider prior to the next scheduled TIC meeting in November 2015.

We have nominated the ATA's National Manager, Government Relations and Policy, Bill McKinley, as our primary contact on this issue. Mr McKinley can be contacted on 02 6253 6900 or bill.mckinley@truck.net.au.

Yours sincerely



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Phil Allan
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