



AUSTRALIAN ROAD TRAIN ASSOCIATION Inc.

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Media Release

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ARTA WELCOMES BACK FEDERAL SHADOW MINISTER FERGUSON – AND PLEADS FOR HIS SUPPORT AGAINST LABOR STATE LAWS

The appointment of Martin Ferguson back as Federal Shadow Transport Minister is a welcome outcome for the Australian road train and multi-combination trucking sector, according to Australian Road Train Executive Director, John Morris.

“In his previous tenure as Shadow Transport Minister, Mr Ferguson was a firm advocate for the industry who embraced the policy challenges facing the industry,” Mr Morris said today.

“We hope his previously displayed pragmatic and sensible approach will rub off onto a number of his state colleagues, who are impeding the progress of productivity reforms in the various states.

“Recently introduced laws in the guise of OH&S legislation – such as the appalling NSW Industrial Relations Commission’s Transport Industry Mutual Responsibility for Road Safety (State) Award and Contract Determination - are nothing more than naked attempts to try and drag back the unions’ domination on Industrial Relations, and serve to aid no-one but the union bosses.

“The reality is these ‘reforms’ will only serve to slowly but surely strangle the Australian trucking industry – meaning both operators and the drivers the unions purport to represent will be shut out of the industry.”

Mr Morris said that it was in this context that ARTA also welcomed former Hawke and Keating Government Minister, Bob McMullen, to the role of Federal Opposition spokesman for Federal/State Relations

“If Mr McMullen can maintain the same hard-nosed, common sense approach toward his state counterparts that he took when he served as the Federal Trade Minister, then we may yet see our industry saved from the apparent determined efforts of some state Labor governments to burden the Australian truckie with as much paperwork and legislation as they can conjure up,” Mr Morris said.

“The Federal ALP has provided our industry with two seasoned and sensible advocates – we look forward to what they will bring to the table.”

Contacts:

John Morris

(02) 6882 2666 / 0448 822 777

Duncan Bremner

(02) 6253 6965 / 0448 822 666



National Transport Insurance

