



MEDIA RELEASE

2 May 2019

VTA supports legislation to improve conditions for Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA), representing the state's freight, transport and logistics industry, has thrown its support behind a Bill introduced to the Victorian Parliament intended to make work safer and fairer for owner drivers and forestry contractors.

Industrial Relations Minister Tim Pallas introduced the Bill on 1 May, stating its intent is to "help ensure owner drivers and forestry contractors are paid correctly, are safer at work and can better look after their businesses."

The legislation follows a review of the *Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Act*, which found many hirers and brokers were not complying with the Act.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson said the Association is totally supportive of the Bill.

"As a member of the Victorian Transport Industry Council the VTA is in full support of this very important initiative taken by the government," Anderson said.

"No other state has made this type of commitment to improve the conditions for all Owner Drivers and ensure that safety is paramount in all contracts, and we commend Minister Pallas and the Government for working with the industry to improve conditions for transport operators and those they employ."

Under the changes, hirers and brokers must comply, or else face penalties of up to \$4,000 per infringement.

Wage Inspectorate Victoria, which was established last year, will be responsible for monitoring compliance, increasing awareness and issuing penalties.

It will conduct a comprehensive information campaign before the laws come into force, to ensure that those affected are aware of their rights and obligations and know where they can find help.

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For further information please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.