



MEDIA RELEASE

22 August 2018

VTA welcomes reforms assisting Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed the Victorian Government's balanced reforms which will assist Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors to better understand cost structures, negotiate fair contracts and run successful small businesses.

The reforms have been introduced by the Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon Natalie Hutchins, in the *Owner-Driver and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018*, following a review of the Act. The legislation is currently before the lower house of the Victorian Parliament.

"These business owners will also now have access to a fast, low cost and confidential binding dispute resolution process through the Small Business Commission, which is subsidised by the Government," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"The legislation will require businesses to pay owner drivers within 30 days of receiving an invoice, and the VTA welcomes this move to reduce financial pressure for drivers. It is also in line with industry best-practice and the Business Council of Australia's Australian Supplier Payment Code."

Should the reforms pass, for the first time, there will be education, enforcement and compliance for this industry within the newly announced Victorian Wage Inspectorate.

Ends...

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