



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**13 September 2019**

## **VTA welcomes passage of *Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Act***

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA), representing the state's freight, transport and logistics industry, has welcomed the passage of legislation in the Parliament of Victoria that will make transport work safer and fairer for owner drivers and forestry contractors.

Amendments to the *Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Act* will ensure these workers are paid correctly, are safer at work and have all the information they need to run successful businesses.

The changes will benefit owner operators that supply and operate one to three vehicles, including bicycles to deliver goods, and are contractors, not legal employees. Those that provide passenger freight services are not covered by the Act.

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

Through the Transport Industry Council of Victoria the amendments to the *Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Act* focussed on promoting industry best practice, education and training. The Act has also been amended to ensure owner drivers are provided with their terms and conditions before engaging with a hirer and that all invoices are paid within 30 days.

There is now more clarity on the definition of a freight broker to ensure that contractors employed through third party technology-based platforms are covered. Dispute resolutions will be heard through the Small Business Commissioner and the new Victorian Wages Inspectorate will provide enforcement.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson said the Association welcomed passage of the legislation.

"We strongly supported this legislation when it was proposed in May and are pleased with its passage through the Parliament yesterday," Anderson said.

"It will improve conditions for all Owner Drivers and ensure that safety is paramount in all contracts.

"We commend Minister Pallas and the Government for working with the industry to legislate for better conditions for transport operators and those they employ."

**Ends...**

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