



MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2019

VTA part of Victorian Government push to reduce heavy vehicle fatalities

The Victorian Transport Association was one of several transport industry stakeholders to participate in a public call to action at the weekend for motorists to be more vigilant about road safety around heavy vehicles.

Regrettably, truck driver fatalities in Victoria have increased over the past year, consistent with fatality and injury spikes across all driver classifications.

So far in Victoria this year, 42 people have died in crashes involving heavy vehicles, including 14 truck drivers and their passengers. Almost one in five (17.1%) of every road death has involved a heavy vehicle and the number of single vehicle truck driver deaths is around five times higher than the five-year average.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson was pleased to join Victorian Roads and Road Safety Minister Jaala Pulford and Transport Accident Commission CEO Joe Calafiore to remind motorists that road safety is a shared obligation.

"While most operators do the right thing, there are some common factors in heavy vehicle road trauma including speed, fatigue, impaired driving and unroadworthy vehicles," Anderson said.

"Conversely, motorcycle and passenger vehicle drivers must be mindful that trucks have large blind spots and take longer to stop, which is a likely factor in a recent NHVR study that found many crashes involving heavy vehicles are caused by other motorists."

Anderson said that with the industry on the cusp of its busiest time of the year, it is important that every driver and road transport operator continue to put safety first.

"The roads will be increasingly busy in the lead-up to Christmas and demands from customers will also escalate. However, no delivery or collection is worth the loss of life or injury, which is worth remembering if drivers are running behind schedule," he said.

The VTA runs a wide range of training and education programs to improve safety for operators and their drivers. For information on these programs please call 03 9646 8590.

Ends...

**For the latest VTA news follow us on Twitter [@VTAComms](#)
For further information please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.**

Victorian Transport Association
PO Box 5, South Melbourne, 3205



victoriantransportassociation^{inc.}