



MEDIA RELEASE

3 March 2023

Spotlight on IR at State Conference 2023

The industrial relations landscape in the Australian freight and logistics industry features prominently at VTA State Conference 2023 later this month.

With the Conference focus on skills and training in the context of *People First – Managing Transport’s Greatest Asset*, industrial relations is especially topical, and the VTA is pleased to welcome several experts to update delegates on the latest legislation and regulation.

“I’m looking forward to participating in a panel session with Queensland Trucking Association CEO Gary Mahon and Transport Workers’ Union National Secretary Michael Kaine to discuss key issues for transport workers and their employers,” said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

“It’s encouraging that employer and employee representative groups can come together to champion progress and reform on common issues that are important for transport operators and staff, like safety, productivity, and creating policy settings that are appropriate for our industry.

“Michael, Gary, and I have a great passion for transport, and with issues like minimum standards, the gig economy, and labour shortages as prominent as they are, we’ve got all the ingredients for very productive discussions.

“I’m also looking forward to hearing from Rigby Cooke Lawyers Special Counsel Victoria Comino. Rigby Cooke provide the VTA and our members specialist industrial relations advice, and Victoria’s presentation on enterprise bargaining in 2023 and managing long term absenteeism will be especially relevant in view of the worker shortage challenges operators are facing,” Anderson said.

Rounding out the Industrial Relations session are presentations from WorkSafe Victoria Programs Manager, Agriculture and Transport Safety, Jen Grigg, and Victoria Police Divisional Commander for Road Policing Operations & Investigations, Superintendent John Fitzpatrick. With safety and enforcement intrinsic in any discussion about people in transport, the VTA is fortunate to have experts like Grigg and Fitzpatrick to address delegates.

State Conference 2023 is proudly sponsored by TWUSUPER, whose support the VTA and freight industry has gratefully enjoyed for many years as the industry super fund for transport workers.

Registration is still open for the Conference and to be a part of the discussion the VTA encourages members and industry representatives participate at Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island from 19-21 March. To review the provisional program in full please follow [this link](#). For further information and to register, please visit www.vta.com.au

Ends...

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