

[Received by email 28/7/09]

Subject: Annual review of Regulatory Burdens: Social and Economic Infrastructure Services Draft Research Report June 2009

Dear ...

Thank you for the further opportunity to comment on the draft report and for the earlier consultation with the Australian Trucking Association (ATA). Our comments relate to the transport sections of the report only, as we have not had our Transport and Economic Policy Committee examine the other areas.

We are pleased to offer our support for the transport related sections of the report as drafted. We note the clear statement of key points, and findings. We are very pleased that the Productivity Commission has accepted that “the inconsistent state and territory government regulation surrounding the operation of road and rail freight imposes considerable regulatory burden on business”. Similarly we are pleased that the Commission acknowledges the commitment by all governments to “implement national regulatory frameworks to overcome inconsistencies” and need to recognise differences in circumstances. We also support the Commission’s statement that “where variations are required they should be based upon circumstances rather than jurisdiction”.

We also support the Commission restatement of its earlier conclusion “that competitive distortions between road and rail have been limited and were not a significant source of market inefficiency” in response to a claim of pricing distortions between road and rail by the rail sector.

Thank you again for the further opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

David Coonan
National Manager, Policy
Australian Trucking Association