

MEDIA RELEASE



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HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE 2009 OWNER-DRIVER AND SMALL FLEET ELECTION

Truck owner drivers and the operators of small trucking fleets will go to the polls in early 2009 to elect their two representatives on the General Council of the Australian Trucking Association, the peak body representing the trucking industry.

Nominations and voter registration will open on 12 January 2009 and close on 9 February 2009. If there are more candidates than vacancies, there will be an election by postal ballot. The successful candidates will take their positions on the ATA Council at its general meeting on 1 April 2009.

The Chairman of the ATA, Trevor Martyn, said the 2009 election was a great opportunity for owner drivers and small fleet operators to have their say about the future of the trucking industry.

"The ATA Council sets the policy direction that the industry takes in our discussions with governments and regulators. It deals with the critical issues that will determine our long term future, such as safety, the need for better regulation and fairer taxes and charges," Mr Martyn said.

"The Council consists of representatives of all our member organisations and companies, as well as the two members directly elected by owner drivers and small fleet operators.

"To register to vote in the election, you must own, be purchasing or leasing 1-5 trucks over 4.5 tonnes and spend time driving. You must also be on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll. You don't have to be a member of an ATA member organisation.

"To nominate for one of the positions, you must be a member of an ATA member organisation and must be registered to vote in the election.

"For the category one (single truck owner driver) position, you must own or be purchasing or leasing one truck over 4.5 tonnes and drive it.

"For the category two (small fleet) position, you must own or be purchasing or leasing 2-5 trucks over 4.5 tonnes.

"I urge all owner drivers and small fleet operators to register to vote. I also urge owner drivers and small fleet operators who have views about the industry's future and what the ATA should be doing to consider nominating for one of the two positions," Mr Martyn said.

A fact sheet about the election is attached. For more information, visit www.atatruck.net.au. For regular updates about the election, subscribe to the ATA's weekly newsletter, the Friday Facts, by emailing mckinleyb@atatruck.net.au.

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ATA OWNER DRIVER AND SMALL FLEET OPERATOR ELECTIONS

What is the election for?

The ATA's policy direction is set by its General Council, which includes two representatives elected by owner-drivers and small fleet operators. These members hold office for two years.

What do the positions involve?

The owner driver and small fleet members are entitled to attend and vote at ATA Council meetings, which are held about four times a year, generally in Canberra. Each meeting lasts a full day. The ATA meets their agreed accommodation and travel expenses for Council business.

The members can also join in the work of the ATA's policy committees. These committees meet regularly by teleconference to discuss policy issues in detail.

How can I register to vote?

To register to vote for one or both representatives, you must be:

- a person (including directors and/or shareholders of a company and trustees and beneficiaries of a trust) who owns, is purchasing or leasing 1-5 trucks over 4.5 tonnes and spends time driving; and
- on the Commonwealth Electoral Roll.

You do not have to be a member of an ATA member organisation. Registering to vote is free.

Voter registration will open on 12 January 2009 and will close on 9 February 2009.

You will be able to download the voter registration form at www.atatruck.net.au on 12 January 2009. You will be able to get a copy in the mail by contacting the ATA secretariat on 02 6253 6900.

How can I nominate for one of the positions?

To nominate for the category one (owner driver) position, you must be:

- a person (including directors and/or shareholders of a company and trustees and beneficiaries of a trust) who owns, is purchasing or leasing one truck over 4.5 tonnes and drives it;
- registered as a voter for the election; and
- a member of an ATA member organisation. You can find the full list of ATA member organisations at www.atatruck.net.au/member_org.html.

To nominate for the category two (small fleet) position, you must be

- a person (including directors and/or shareholders of a company and trustees and beneficiaries of a trust) who owns, is purchasing or leasing 2-5 trucks over 4.5 tonnes;
- registered as a voter for the election; and
- a member of an ATA member organisation.

The nomination fee for both positions is \$60. Candidates can, if they wish, submit a candidate statement of up to 500 words that will be circulated to voters with the ballot papers.

Nominations for the election will open on 12 January 2009 and will close on 9 February 2009.

You will be able to download the nomination form at www.atatruck.net.au on 12 January 2009. You will be able to get a copy in the mail by contacting the ATA secretariat on 02 6253 6900.

How will the election be conducted?

If there are more candidates than vacancies, the ACT Electoral Commission will conduct an election by postal ballot.

What is the election timetable?

Nominations and voter registration opens	12/01/09
Nominations and voter registration closes (close of business)	9/02/09
Declaration of result if no election is necessary	Between 9/02/09 and 16/02/09
Issue of ballot papers	16/02/09
Close of polls	9/03/09
Scrutiny of ballot papers	10/03/09
Declaration of result	11/03/09
Candidates to be notified of result and result to be posted on ATA website	By 18/03/09
Successful candidates take office	At the ATA Annual General Meeting on 1/04/09

How can I get more information about the election?

For more details about the election, including the election regulations and the ATA's MOU with the ACT Electoral Commission, go to www.atatruck.net.au or phone the ATA secretariat on 02 6253 6900.