

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY THIS CHRISTMAS

Australian Trucking Association Chairman, Trevor Martyn, has today called on truck drivers to set the standard for safe driving over the Christmas holiday period.

Mr Martyn said there would be many trucks on the road during the holiday period, and that truck drivers and motorists need to share the road safely.

"I ask motorists to remember that truck drivers want to get home for Christmas too, but our trucks perform differently to cars. Here are a few tips that motorists can follow to make their trip safer:

- Don't cut in front of trucks as they slow for traffic lights or when you're out on the highway. A truck needs more road to stop than you expect, because they are much heavier than cars.
- Don't overtake trucks when they are turning. Trucks often need to turn from the centre lane at intersections and corners, so stay well back. Remember, if you can't see the truck driver's side mirrors, the truck driver can't see you.
- Please be patient if the truck in front of you slows down when it's going up a hill; we're doing our best. If you want to overtake, make sure you can see enough clear road ahead."

Mr Martyn reminded motorists that the holiday period presents a whole new set of challenges for all road users.

"There are more cars on the road at Christmas time, and the public's attention is focused on the professionalism of our driving. Professional drivers know the rules, and we are the ones who should be setting an example for holiday motorists," Mr Martyn said.

"Motorists often feel under pressure to push on to their destination even though they're tired. They don't want to disappoint their family and friends, but the best way we can all get home for Christmas is to share the road safely," he said.

Mr Martyn said Australia's highways would become a safer place to work for truck drivers, now the Australian Government is pressing ahead with its \$70 million Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. The program will deliver as many as 125 new truck rest areas on major highways.

"Fatigue is a major contributor to truck accidents, but there currently aren't enough rest areas for drivers to stop and take a break," he said.

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