

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRUCKING INDUSTRY RELEASES REST AREA PRIORITY LIST

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) has called for heavy vehicle rest areas on key interstate routes to be the highest funding priority under the Australian Government's \$70 million Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Plan.

In its submission to the Government on the plan, the ATA provided a list of 18 priority locations where new or expanded rest areas are needed right now, ranging from the intersection of the M7 and M4 motorways in Sydney to the Barkly Highway near Frewina in the Northern Territory.

The Chairman of the ATA, Trevor Martyn, said the list set out the industry's most urgent rest area priorities and that thousands of additional rest areas were needed across the country.

"The ATA developed the priority list in conjunction with our state and sector member organisations. It represents the absolute minimum number of new or expanded rest areas we need to cope with the introduction of the new fatigue laws in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia on 29 September," Mr Martyn said.

"The new fatigue laws will require truck drivers to stop for rest breaks more often, but there simply aren't enough places for them to stop. A recent audit concluded that none of Australia's major highways have enough rest areas to meet the national guidelines.

"In total, thousands of new rest areas are needed across the country, including on state roads. Our state and sector member organisations have done significant work with the state road agencies on identifying these broader rest area funding priorities," he said.

The Australian Government will contribute \$70 million toward the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Plan over the next four years.

"The \$70 million of funding is a good start, but it is not nearly enough to build all the rest areas we need. As a first step, it's vitally important the state and territory governments agree to match the Australian Government's funding on a dollar for dollar basis," Mr Martyn said.

The ATA's submission also asked the Government to direct funding toward road infrastructure upgrades to allow greater road access for high productivity vehicles, heavy vehicle de-coupling bays in and around urban and regional centres, and, as lower priority, trials of in-vehicle electronic systems to monitor truck speeds and driver hours.

The ATA's rest area priority list is attached. The South Australian Road Transport Association (SARTA) is submitting an additional list of rest areas in South Australia to the Australian Government for its consideration.

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AUSTRALIAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATION FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR REST AREAS

NEW SOUTH WALES

- Construction of a major rest area, including adequate capacity for changeovers and decoupling, in proximity to the intersection of the M7 and M4 in Sydney.
- Construction of a major rest area, including adequate capacity for changeovers and decoupling, on the M5 on approach to the Botany ports precinct in Sydney.
- Construction of rest areas on the Pacific Highway north (heading northbound) and south (heading southbound) of Grafton.
- Construction of a rest area on the Princes Highway between Kiama and Eden.
- Construction of a rest area southbound on the Newell Highway at Pilliga State Forest.
- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area infrastructure on the Gwydir Highway between Grafton and Moree.
- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area infrastructure on the Barrier Highway between Narromine and Cobar.
- Construction of major rest areas northbound and southbound on the F3 in proximity to the Hawkesbury area in Sydney.

VICTORIA

- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area infrastructure on the Hume Highway between Wodonga and Melbourne to address overcrowding at existing facilities.
- Construction of a rest area on the Western Highway between Nhill and the South Australian border.

QUEENSLAND

- Construction of major rest areas on the Gateway Motorway north (heading northbound) and south (heading southbound) of the Brisbane airport.
- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area infrastructure on the Bruce Highway.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area and decoupling infrastructure on the Great Northern Highway at Wubin.
- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area and decoupling infrastructure on the North-West Coastal Highway at Carnarvon.
- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area and decoupling infrastructure on the Great Northern Highway at Apple Street, Swan Valley.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Capacity upgrades to the existing rest area infrastructure on the Barrier Highway between Oodla Wirra in South Australia and the New South Wales border.
- The South Australia Road Transport Association is submitting an additional list of rest areas in South Australia to the Australian Government for its consideration.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

- Construction of a rest area on the Barkly Highway in proximity to Barry Caves in the Northern Territory.
- Construction of a rest area on the Barkly Highway in proximity to Frewina in the Northern Territory.