

APTIA AND TWU JOINT SUBMISSION

- 1** APTIA and the TWU acknowledge one another as the relevant Registered Organisations in the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry.
- 2** While including the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry within the remit of the proposed Road Transport Expert Panel in the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes) Bill 2023 (Closing Loopholes Bill)* is a different approach to that previously taken under the *Road Safety Remunerations Act 2012*, the passenger transport sector is:
 - a.** an essential service under pressure from those at the top of the contractual chain (often being State Governments);
 - b.** coming under increasing pressure from the 'gig' passenger transport sector which has little to no minimum standards in terms of worker remuneration or Government regulations in areas such as vehicle type, size and mass limit; and
 - c.** facing increased regulatory pressure, such as having to achieve greater environmental standards, leading to an increased need for infrastructure, funded by industry, without being guaranteed to recover these costs over a reasonable and sustainable period of time.
- 3** APTIA and the TWU also recognise that the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry has its own set of unique challenges which should be acknowledged by the Closing Loopholes Bill, as identified by APTIA in its submission to the Committee on 25 September 2023, and be at the forefront of the Road Transport Expert Panel when proposing to exercise any powers related to the passenger transport sector.
- 4** Given the above, APTIA and the TWU's position as it relates to the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry is that the road transport objective should be amended to specifically acknowledge the unique challenges and conditions in different sectors of the road transport industry and ensure that the Road Transport Expert Panel considers these when proposing to exercise its powers.
- 5** APTIA and the TWU are of the view that the composition of the Road Transport Advisory Group, as proposed in section 40F(2) of the Closing the Loopholes Bill, already includes both organisations as the relevant Registered Organisations as they relate to the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry. This means that both Registered Organisations, along with any other relevant organisations and/ or persons in accordance with s 40F of the Closing Loopholes Bill, will advise the Road Transport Expert Panel in relation to any matters relevant to the passenger sector of the road transport industry.
- 6** On this basis APTIA and the TWU support a collaborative approach with Government as it relates to the passenger transport sector of the road transport industry.