



6 August 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment & Workplace Relations Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House Canberra
ACT 2600
Australia

Re: Senate Inquiry into Industry Skills Councils

The Secretary,

Please consider this letter as the National Transport Commission's contribution to the Senate Inquiry into Skills Councils. The short submission focuses on the role and effectiveness of Skills Councils in the context of the transport industry.

Australia's transport policy challenges are well documented – a growing freight task, an ageing workforce, fragmented regulations and comparatively high-levels of workplace deaths and injuries. Industry skills training and workforce planning at a national level are, therefore, essential components of transport policy and reform.

From the National Transport Commission's perspective, the Transport & Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC) has played an effective role in supporting the national transport reform agenda. In particular, this work has recently included:

- competency units as the basis of training for drivers and scheduling staff who work under accredited heavy vehicle fatigue schemes;
- competency standards to support national rail safety laws; and
- ongoing dialogue around the national vocational training system and its impact on transport regulations.

In its engagement with the TLISC, NTC has always found the organisation and its people to be highly effective, professional and responsive. High level engagement with the TLISC will be essential as NTC and governments progress COAG reforms for a national regulatory framework for heavy vehicles and rail safety, as well as ATC policies to improve transport safety and compliance.

Regards

Nick Dimopoulos
Chief Executive
National Transport Commission