

15 December 2006

Committee Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the Inquiry into Workplace Challenges in the Transport Industry

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Western Sydney Transport & Logistics Careers Task Force is a recently formed body consisting of representatives from a variety of T&L industry stakeholder groups who have been brought together under the facilitation of the Transport and Logistics Centre (TALC) and the Greater Western Sydney Economic Development Board (GWSEDB).

The intent in forming this group was to create a self-sufficient and self motivated group of industry professionals who are committed to address the problem of labour and skills shortages within T&L in Western Sydney. The members of the Executive Committee provide an insight on the diversity and balance that we have at our disposal:

Chair	Mike Owen (AirRoad)
Secretary	Terri Henry (Regional Industry Career Adviser)
Committee	Denis Robertson (Roadmaster)
Members	Melissa Strong (Roadmaster)
	Adrian Denyer (TWU)
	Philip Perdikaris (MGA)
	Philip England (NSW RTA)
	John Holt (Autonexus)
	Roslyn McKinnen (TAFE)
	Linda Henry (APICS)

We have literally only just formed (the first Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12 December 2006), and were not aware of this inquiry, but thought it important that you were aware of our existence and our primary objectives (which will be refined in the coming months with our efforts focused). These initial objectives are as follows:

Making the industry attractive / changing industry image/perception  
Attracting people of all ages  
Education/skills within T & L – and promotion of same  
Career Development for existing workers  
Developing a marketplace understanding – Where does T & L fit and – Where can an employee go within it.

As you can see, our objectives are very similar to the terms of this inquiry, despite being developed in isolation.

We understand and appreciate that most of the deliverables associated with our objectives are long-term in nature, especially the awareness and enlightenment of secondary school students on the diversity and opportunity that resides within a T&L career. We are aware that we will need to work diligently and inventively over the next 5 to 10 years to make any real difference in supporting the health of our industry.

As our Task Force develops over the coming months, we would appreciate further liaison and the opportunity for further input (ideally face-to-face) and remain open and willing to support the objectives of this Senate Committee.

Please contact the undersigned directly if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mike Owen  
Chairman  
Western Sydney Transport & Logistics Careers Task Force

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