

Dear Committee Secretary

Submission - Heavy Vehicle Charges Legislation

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Standing Committee is urged to support the Interstate Road Transport Amendment (No.2) Bill 2008 and a related Bill:

- Amend the Interstate Road Transport Charge Act 1985; and
- Increase registration charges for heavy vehicles registered under the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme.

The revised heavy vehicle charges proposed by the National Transport Commission, and unanimously agreed by the Australian Transport Commission, is good economic management. The charges are essential for proper transport pricing to ensure effective infrastructure use and to optimise the transport system.

Current heavy vehicle charges were last determined formally in 2000. While these charges have been amended annually, the increases have not kept pace with expenditure resulting in an estimated under-recovery of \$168 million per annum (2007).

It is noted that the Productivity Commission's Road & Rail Freight Infrastructure Pricing Inquiry (2007) concluded – 'Substantial increases in road investment in the past couple of years make it likely that heavy vehicle charges would have to rise to maintain cost recovery'.

Passing this Heavy Vehicle Charges legislation will assist better use of all transport which reduces congestion and emissions and improves road safety.

Sincerely,
bryan williams
Consulting & Business Analysis,
ARA
4 atherton close
aspendale gardens VIC 3195