

7 April 2016

Dear Senator

SUPPORT TO ABOLISH THE ROAD SAFETY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

I am writing to seek your support to abolish the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal when Parliament resumes next week.

I am one of the thousands of people affected by a recent decision of the Tribunal which makes it impossible for me to compete with larger transport companies servicing rural Australia.

The Tribunal is supposed to improve road safety, but it won't. All it will do is keep older trucks on the road for longer, and increase the risk of mental health issues for owner drivers with large truck debts trying to feed their families while they watch their businesses fall apart.

Local communities will also be affected as work dries up for the mechanics, auto-electricians, panel beaters, parts suppliers, vehicle dealers and finance brokers. Long term business relationships will come to an end because the risk of large fines for breaking the RSRT laws is too high.

The Tribunal is not good for the economy, and it limits competition. Recent reports show that it will cost \$2.3 billion over 15 years. What the reports don't say is that new audit requirements make it legal for one company to access the financial records of another company – under the pretence of monitoring compliance with RSRT rules – but with no guarantee this information won't be used to undercut them.

Rural Australia relies heavily on road transport and already transport costs are too high. If these go up by 30 – 350%, businesses in rural and regional towns will struggle to make ends meet.

We need your help to get rid of the Tribunal. Please support repeal of the system that created it and give our business a fair go.

Yours sincerely