

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

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Mr Nick Dimopoulos
Chief Executive
National Transport Commission
Level 15/ 628 Bourke Street
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Project Officer	R DM	Copy to
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Response Due		Project Code

ASK Robert Bernard

Dear Mr Dimopoulos

Electronic Systems for heavy vehicle driver fatigue and speed compliance: draft position paper

Thank you for your letter dated 28 July 2009 regarding the above paper.

I agree with the National Transport Commission (NTC) recommendation that the preferred option is to develop guidance material consistent with the current legislation to allow electronic work diaries to be approved.

The voluntary uptake of telematics such as electronic work diaries in heavy vehicles will continue to be problematic for the heavy vehicle industry because of the highly accurate and continuous monitoring capabilities of this equipment as opposed to written work diaries.

To encourage industry involvement it will be very important to develop a nationally accepted sanctions policy that will ensure regulators adopt similar approaches to managing the expected high number of very low level breaches that will be identified through the use of telematics. I note the NTC has other projects underway where this issue can be considered.

I would caution against seeking Ministers advice on the potential replacement of the written work diary with an electronic record until the major policy issues with the use of telematics have been resolved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this paper.

Yours sincerely

Norm McIlpatrick
SECRETARY

25 August 2009