

## **The Tasmanian Transport Association and Rural Alive and Well launch Open Road – Driver Health and Wellbeing Program to improve heavy vehicle safety**

The Tasmanian Transport Association's **Open Road – Driver Health and Wellbeing Program** to be delivered in partnership with Rural Alive and Well, was officially launched by the Federal Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Tasmanian Senator Carol Brown.

The launch at Epping Forest Road House was timed to coincide with National Road Safety Week and is designed to improve safety for heavy vehicle drivers and other road users.

Open Road is made possible with crucial funding from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's (NHVR) Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSI), supported by the Australian Government.

John de Bruyn, Chairman of the Tasmanian Transport Association, said the project will be rolled out over the next 18 months, in partnership with Rural Alive and Well, working collaboratively with Tasmanian freight transport businesses.

"Open Road is a program developed by TTA to provide an industry-led approach to address issues of physical and mental health and wellbeing in the Tasmanian transport industry and builds on our Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy. We're excited to expand on our partnerships with Rural Alive and Well, and with the University of Tasmania, along with our members, to provide resources and support that will make a real difference to the wellbeing of people in our industry in Tasmania" said Mr de Bruyn.

Assistant Minister Carol Brown said that the program is a significant step to addressing issues of physical and mental health experienced by drivers and others in the road transport industry.

"I congratulate the Tasmanian Transport Association and Rural Alive and Well in establishing this important program, which will provide much needed support for Tasmanian transport workers and businesses, as they seek to raise awareness of the issues and provide practical support to improve the physical and mental health of workers", Senator Brown said.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocitto said the Tasmanian Transport Association is one of 15 grantees to receive funding as part of the Federal Government's \$5.6 million investment towards HVSI projects. "As part of the HVSI, industry is driving its own safety initiatives to contribute to safer roads, drivers, and vehicles," Mr Petrocitto said. "I am excited to see how the Tasmanian Transport Association's project will make an impact, to deliver improved safety outcomes for all road users."

### **ENDS**

Media Contacts:

TTA - Michelle Harwood - 0427 366 742

Senator Carol Brown – Nellie Metcalfe – 0473 965 172