



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Minister for Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development
and Local Government
Leader of the House

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06 APR 2009

Reference: 01947-2009

The Hon Michael Daley MP
Minister for Roads
Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister *Michael*,

Thank you for your letter received on 6 March 2009 about the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP).

I am pleased to advise that I have approved \$8,045,000 of (capped) funding to NSW split \$1,497,500 in 2008-09 and \$6,547,500 in 2009-10 for rest area and bridge works under the Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP). I have also approved the requested tender exemption for some of the proposed works. Copies of the Project Approval and Tender Exemption instruments are attached for your information.

Your Department is required to report to my Department on progress and costs against individual projects, including information on the number of direct and indirect jobs, which have been created by the projects. My Department will contact your Department on timing of payments and how progress is to be monitored. If savings should occur, the savings or any interest earned from Australian Government funds held by NSW may be expended on other projects within the HVSPP subject to the agreement of the Australian Government.

Under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority is required to liaise with relevant environmental agencies to identify environmental and/or heritage issues that need to be addressed. Any matters of national environmental or heritage significance must be referred to the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts.

In relation to vehicle electronic systems you raised, our initial intention was to support fatigue and speed management trials from the HVSPP. However, on 7 November 2008, the Australian Transport Council (ATC) decided to bring forward the immediate

development of an Australian performance-based specification for electronic heavy vehicle speed and driver fatigue systems to enhance the use of in-vehicle telematics.

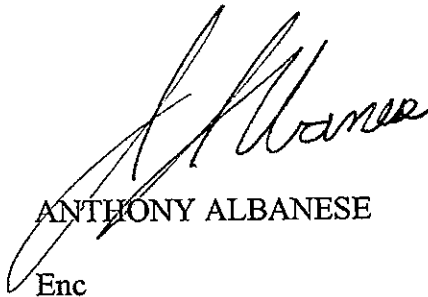
The ATC also decided to extend its decision made in February 2008, which commissioned the National Transport Commission to develop a national policy framework and regulatory impact statement for electronic heavy vehicle driver systems, by requiring this work to now encompass heavy vehicle speed. The implications of these decisions by ATC mean that such trials may now not be necessary.

Later this year, the Australian Government will invite further submissions to the second round of funding under the HVSPP, of which \$40 million is available for 2010-11 and 2011-12. It is open to the NSW Government to put forward proposals for trials and pilots for vehicle electronic systems.

Of course I would take into account the other work being undertaken, in the ATC context, in assessing any such proposals for funding. You would appreciate that in the current economic circumstances I am keen to fund proposals that will generate maximum employment, while creating an immediate improvement in the safety and productivity of heavy vehicle operation in Australia.

I look forward to working with you on this program.

Yours sincerely



ANTHONY ALBANESE

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