



20 November 2008

Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Consultation
c/- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra Act 2601

Dear Sir/Madam,

SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE VEHICLE FUEL EFFICIENCY DISCUSSION PAPER

At its meeting of 13 April 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) requested the Australian Transport Council (ATC) and the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) to jointly develop a package of vehicle fuel efficiency measures designed to move Australia towards international best practise. In response to this request, the COAG Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Working Group released a discussion paper in September 2008 to assist consultation in the preparation of a final report to be considered by ATC and EPHC in early 2009.

This submission details the views of the members of the Australian Trucking Association (ATA) and the wider trucking industry on positive government initiatives that can be undertaken to assist our nation's rapidly growing transport fleets continue in their efforts to improve the energy efficiency and environmental performance of fleet operations.

The ATA was originally established in 1989 as the Road Transport Forum (RTF) and is the peak national body uniting and representing the interests of the Australian trucking industry. Membership of the ATA's General Council comprises the peak state and sector based trucking associations, the Transport Workers' Union, some of the nation's largest transport enterprises and representatives of small fleet owners and owner drivers.

The measures identified in the vehicle fuel efficiency discussion paper relate primarily to initiatives targeted toward the light vehicle fleet. The ATA does not seek to make substantive comment in this submission on measures identified for exclusive application to the light vehicle fleet, however, the ATA would be inclined to make detailed representations if these measures were further considered for application to heavy vehicles.

The measures identified in the discussion paper for potential application to heavy vehicles relate to government-industry initiatives that seek to improve consumer awareness, including through the establishment of:

- a technology demonstration scheme for Australian road transport fleets; and
- a heavy vehicle environmental rating scheme.