

Transport Workers' Union of Australia

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National Secretary
Michael Kaine

Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
Delivered Via Email

March 25, 2020

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding the closure of state borders to seek urgent information on what measures and protections are in place for truck drivers.

Trucking is an essential service which is vital to ensure that goods continue to be made available to the public and other essential services in this time of crisis.

Truck drivers are a vulnerable group, since on average they tend to be older with underlying health issues. Owner drivers are often forced to subsist on tight margins and with clients currently delaying payment times, it is increasingly difficult for drivers to keep their trucks going and goods moving.

Because of this we are keen to get responses on a number of issues:

- Clarity that trucks will still be allowed to cross your state's borders and that truck drivers will be exempt from self-isolation requirements
- Clarity about any measures in place at border crossings to check trucks and truck drivers crossing, whether this includes temperature checks on drivers, etc
- Assurances that truck drivers will be supplied at these border crossing with hand sanitisers, masks, gloves and information
- Clarity on any measures in place for truck drivers when they enter the state to protect themselves and others
- Assurances that truck stops will stay open so that drivers can still access rest areas for food and showers. We are concerned about stops only offering take away services
- Assurances that showers and rest areas at truck stops for truck drivers will be cleaned and disinfected adequately
- Assistance in ensuring that clients pay owner drivers and transport operators on time.
- Assurances that owner drivers who are in financial distress are given financial assistance

We remain available to discuss these issues and any other measures being considered.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Kaine'.

Michael Kaine
TWU National Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Olsen'.

Richard Olsen
TWU NSW Branch Secretary