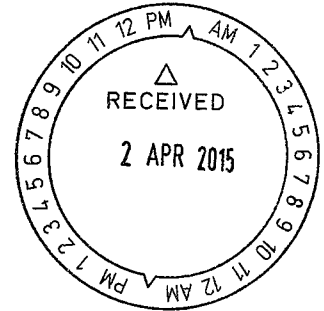




Minister for Transport



Our Ref: 53-06170
Your Ref: Petition No 70

Hon S O'Brien MLC
Chairman Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr O'Brien *Simon*

Thank you for your letter of 18 February 2015 regarding Petition No 70 – WA Truck Drivers' Workplace Safety.

Main Roads seeks to provide adequate areas for all drivers to pull over and rest in accordance with Fatigue Management requirements. Under the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSP), the Federal and State Government are providing funds to build better roadside facilities.

The funds are being used to upgrade existing rest stops, build new rest stops and construct new layover bays. This provides drivers with more opportunities to take breaks or reconfigure their trailers and for Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) loads to park up to allow other traffic to pass.

Under the HVSP, more than \$20 million has been spent on improving heavy vehicle facilities in Western Australia since 2008, including:

- New or expanded Road Train Assembly Areas (RTAAs) at Bedfordale, Apple Street, Wubin, Northam, Newman, Broome, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Bunbury, as well as a new metropolitan facility near the grain terminal in Forrestfield; and
- Over 40 new or upgraded rest areas along key arterial routes, such as North West Coastal Highway, Brand Highway, Great Northern Highway, Eyre Highway, Goldfields Highway and Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road.

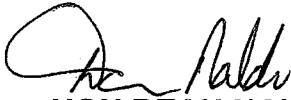
Main Roads is continuing to work with industry to identify high priority locations for new or upgraded rest area facilities on the road network as part of the HVSP initiative. It is expected that HVSP round four funding will be announced shortly and will enable the upgrade of a further four rest areas in the Goldfields region before the end of 2015.

At certain locations, such as the RTAAs at Bedfordale, Wubin and Northam, ablution facilities are provided. However, the provision of additional services such as showers and meals has traditionally been provided by commercial enterprises. It is recognized that in recent years some commercial operators have withdrawn or downgraded facilities at a number of locations in WA.

Main Roads has been working with the commercial operators to encourage greater investment in roadhouse facilities at a number of locations in the north of the State, including Carnarvon and Newman, as well as along Forrest Highway in the South West.

I trust the information provided will assist you to respond to the petitioner's concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Nalder', written in a cursive style.

**HON DEAN NALDER MLA
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT**

26 MAR 2015