

Re: Endorsed Industry Solutions

Today the Transport Workers Union of Australia (TWU) and Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation (ARTIO) held a Transport Industry Roundtable in response to the immediate and growing threat of Coronavirus on the transport industry and the movement of key goods and services across Australia. This meeting was attended by wide ranging industry stakeholders across transport supply chains including multiple transport companies from retails, ports, waste and buses, employer associations, clients, employees and independent contractors, clients, economists and politicians. After discussion, the meeting collectively endorsed the following demands which are required to ensure the nation keeps moving:

Tax relief

- Payroll/PAYG/bas tax relief for all transport employers, big and small who retain employees during the impacted period
- Tax relief on truck registrations
- Reduced fuel excise duty
- Cashback on tolls for transport industry

Government assistance

- Government leverage to defer loans to banks and financiers without penalty
- Allowing transport employers to retain staff rather than making them redundant by allowing workers to receive the Newstart allowance, with the Government then topping then up to their average weekly wage
- No-interest loans for transport companies in distress
- Government subsidies to compensate business for any affected employee by the coronavirus, so the leave entitlements of employees are not affected
- Paid protections that allow insecure and/or independent workers to self-isolate, take sick leave and guarantee work arrangement
- Government provide financial shortfall guarantee to encourage ongoing purchases on equipment. This will include a guarantee of the non-depreciable rate.
- Extend current tax break on depreciation of assets up to 150k to June 2021
- Pause on road tolls
- Assistance by all level of Government in temporarily lifting curfews that limit the transportation of goods and services for heavy and commercial vehicles (including, but not limited to, across council, depots and ports)
- Government subsidies or rebate for companies to help purchase laptops during this period, so they can prepare if staff are forced to work from remotely

Clients

- Reducing length of time to pay operators and drivers
- Maintaining pre-outbreak rates to ensure businesses can pay their overheads and labour costs
- Abandoning/pausing any contract penalty terms relating to delivery parameters