



## Road Transport Roundtable 29 August 2022

### Agreed Principles for a Safe, Sustainable & Fair Road Transport Industry

#### Background

A safe, sustainable, viable and fair road transport industry is vital for both Australia's economic future and the safety of all Australian road users. The covid-19 pandemic opened the eyes of the Australian community to the indispensable nature of road transport supply chains in ensuring that society continued to function. The entire industry from clients like the retailers, to transport companies, to hard working transport employees, owner drivers and gig workers have been widely lauded as heroes of the pandemic.

However, this new-found community appreciation does not change the fact that there are unique challenges facing various parts of the sector, from road safety risks that can have deadly consequences for workers to competitive pressures that can force transport operators to operate at below cost recovery which has resulted in one of the highest rates of insolvency of any industry.

At the same time, the legal framework has not kept pace with changes in the industry including the rise of the on-demand economy and new types of work arrangements.

A broad industry coalition has now emerged, constructively calling for Government action through two key Senate inquiries. The recommendations of the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee *Without Trucks Australia Stops: the development of a viable, safe, sustainable and efficient road transport industry* have received industry support and, following the recent findings of the Select Committee on Job Security, significant agreements have been reached between unions and on demand platforms confirming the need for reform for on demand workers in the road transport industry. As agreed, the parties are engaged in ongoing work to define the specific enforceable standards which should apply to this sector.



coles



Uber

DOORDASH



TOLL

GLOBAL EXPRESS

FBT TRANSWEST



NATROAD  
NATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

TEACHO>LTD  
Transport Education Audit Compliance Health Organisation



NT ROAD  
TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION



This broad coalition is calling on the Government to ensure that road transport clients can operate safe, sustainable and viable supply chains; provide transport operators and platforms with regulatory certainty, flexibility and a level playing field; and ensure that transport workers appropriately benefit.

#### Call for Action

This road transport roundtable of clients, transport operators, on-demand and rideshare platforms, transport associations, transport workers and academics calls for urgent action to ensure a safe, sustainable, viable and fair road transport industry for all supply chain participants, including independent contractors, and non-employee transport workers in the on-demand and rideshare economy. As such the roundtable calls on the Australian Government to investigate a range of options to achieve this outcome, which may include adequately resourcing an independent body administered by persons with industry expertise or better empowering existing bodies, to:

1. establish and maintain appropriate and enforceable standards in relation to both traditional transport operations and on-demand delivery and rideshare platform work;
2. promote best practice supply & contract chain industry standards;
3. effectively and efficiently resolve disputes;
4. ensure transport workers are able to access and contribute to an effective collective voice;
5. convene as necessary specialist advisory groups drawn from the industry to provide advice and recommendations; and
6. provide appropriate enforcement to ensure standards and objectives are met.