



Dr Chris Burns

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

21 March 2006

NT OPPOSES INCREASE IN TRUCKING REGO FEES

The Northern Territory Government has voted against a proposed nationwide increase in registration costs for heavy vehicles.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns said the increases proposed by the National Transport Commission would place an unfair burden on the trucking industry at a time of rising fuel prices.

“The industry plays a crucial role in the Territory, supplying our major centres and remote communities,” Dr Burns said.

“The NTC’s proposal would have increased registration charges for a triple road train by 30 per cent at the same time that the Commonwealth was looking to increase the diesel fuel charge.

“There is no doubt in my mind that this proposal would have resulted in increased transport costs being passed on to consumers and businesses.”

The NTC is required to regularly review heavy vehicle registration charges that apply to heavy trucks and buses to recover the costs of wear and tear on the nation’s roads.

The current NTC proposal is part of the “Third Heavy Vehicle Road Pricing Determination” which is delivered to the Australian Transport Council for consideration.

The ATC is comprised of all states and territories, as well as the Federal Government, with each member having a single vote.

The last review was approved by the Australian Transport Council in 2000. The previous review was in 1992.

“The Territory Government has worked closely with local industry to ensure issues were raised with the NTC and the federal minister,” Dr Burns said.

“I was not convinced that the proposed increases in registration charges for B-double and road train prime movers represent a fair outcome for the trucking industry.”

Contact: James Hook 0401 119 592