



Delia Lawrie
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT

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World Class Truck Safety

State-of-the-art truck safety systems were on display to an Australian delegation in Germany yesterday.

Minister for Transport Delia Lawrie and Executive Officer of the Australian Trucking Association (NT) Mr Peter Goed joined the delegation on a tour organised by trucking magnate Lindsay Fox.

The delegation, including Ministers and officials from other States and the Commonwealth Government, were given real-life high speed demonstrations of the systems at the Mercedes testing facility in Stuttgart.

“The safety systems are all about helping the driver of a truck avoid collisions,” said Ms Lawrie.

“With an increasing number of trucks on Territory roads it is important that we look at every idea that improves safety”

The demonstrations outlined Intelligent Safety Systems that alert drivers if they drift out of their lane, get too close to the vehicle in front of them or exceed the speed limit.

The system can automatically engage the brakes if it detects that the vehicle in front is stopping suddenly and stability control helps prevent a truck swerving or tipping over.

The technology will help save lives, make roads safer for all roads users but also has the potential to reduce operating costs.

“Most importantly a reduction in crashes saves lives, but it also saves money. Not just the cost of repairs but the costs of having a truck off the road,” said Ms Lawrie.

Ms Lawrie said that upon her return she would outline the benefits of the systems to local operators and work with them to consider how the technology could be introduced.

Mr Peter Goed said he was looking forward to talking about the systems with truckies in the Territory.

“The safety systems and the ideas are fantastic but they need to be discussed with industry, ultimately the technology is there to assist drivers,” said Mr Goed.

Ms Lawrie and Mr Goed are now returning to the Territory where they will hold a forum to outline the benefits of the safety system to industry.