



Queensland
Government

Minister for
**Transport and
Main Roads**

Minister for
**Police, Fire and
Emergency Services**

Mr Paul Schembri
Chairman
Canegrowers Queensland
GPO Box 1032
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Schembri

We were pleased to meet with you on 10 September 2014 regarding recent concerns with heavy vehicle permitting as it applies to your industry. This government is a strong supporter of the cane industry and we understand your concerns in relation to the timeliness and cost of permits, the length of permit periods, and requirements for pilot/escort arrangements.

Based on discussions with Canegrowers, the government has taken immediate action in recent weeks to assist the industry. This includes:

- fast tracking individual permits and working with local councils to develop a range of "pre-approvals" so repeat access consents are not required from them
- issuing a group permit on 4 September 2014 that covers a range of farming machinery sizes outside of existing guidelines, with an appropriate level of pilots and escorts. This will significantly reduce the number of individual single permits that will be required to be applied for, as well as associated permit application costs. A copy of the permit is enclosed with this letter
- extending the length of a range of individual and group permits to cover the current harvesting season (for example; from 3 months to 6 months)
- where growers identify that requirements for crossing or travelling along particular roads is problematic, TMR and QPS will consider what local traffic management arrangements can be implemented during this harvest season to facilitate movement
- identified opportunities where QPS escorting requirements may be substituted with private industry accredited escorts.

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With regards to the piloting/escorting arrangements that apply to over-dimensional vehicles, there is still further discussion to be had. These arrangements have been in place for over 10 years, and are based on an assessment of the road network to safely accommodate agricultural movement with all other road users. Further, with the obligations now in place under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL), there are other parties that have a role to play in this space.

Notwithstanding this, we are committed to looking for a way forward on the outstanding matters. As agreed at our meeting, officers from our agencies will meet as soon as possible with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to review pilot and escort arrangements for vehicles between 3.5 and 4 metres. This step is critical given that the HVNL requires agricultural vehicles to be escorted. We have asked that our departments and the NHVR ensure an appropriate balance is struck between public safety and economic sustainability of the industry.

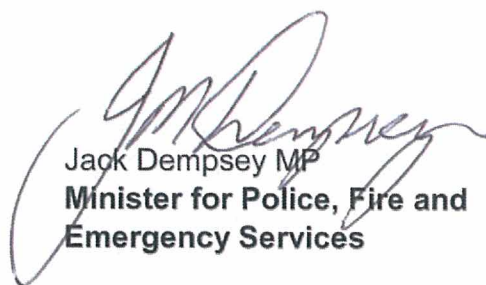
If your members would like to discuss their permits, the requirements under the HVNL or their individual requirements on particular roads, we would encourage them to contact the Heavy Vehicle Road Operations Program Office on 1300 105 647.

We look forward to being in touch again soon in regards to the outcomes of these discussions.

Yours sincerely



Scott Emerson MP
**Minister for Transport
and Main Roads**



Jack Dempsey MP
**Minister for Police, Fire and
Emergency Services**

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