

21 March 2022

National Transport Commission  
Public submission – Heavy vehicle charges consultation report  
Level 3, 600 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

*via email: [enquiries@ntc.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ntc.gov.au)*

Dear Sir/Madam

### **2022-23 Heavy Vehicle Charges Consultation**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the *Heavy vehicle charges consultation report* and note the logic and quantum of the proposed 2.75 per cent increase to the heavy vehicle charges for 2022-23.

We continue to encourage a move away from the current practice of setting heavy vehicles charges for a year at a time. As we have previously commented<sup>1</sup> it is important the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meetings, through the National Transport Commission, consider, and where possible mitigate, the impact of cumulative regulatory burden on small businesses. A multi-year approach to setting heavy vehicle charges should reduce administrative and compliance costs for small businesses that operate heavy vehicles.

Now is not the time for abrupt increases in charges to small businesses, with many still in the process of recovery from COVID-19 challenges, others facing challenges from the impacts of natural disasters, and particularly in an industry likely to be heavily impacted by rising fuel prices with little scope to recover increased input costs.

We continue to be of the view that small businesses would be better able to accommodate increases in heavy vehicle charges were those changes to be in the form of a pre-defined multi-year price path that incorporated smoothed price rises.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mike Kearney on 02 5114 6119 or at [michael.kearney@asbfeo.gov.au](mailto:michael.kearney@asbfeo.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Bruce Billson**  
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

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<sup>1</sup> Submission of 23 August 2021 to heavy vehicle charges determination: consultation regulation impact statement