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Dear Sir /Madam

**Submission NHVA Safe Drivers Safe practices**

As a holder of a HC license and the driver of heavy vehicles, I wish to make a submission on the above and in particular in regards to rest areas. The fact that we need more Truck rest areas has long been highlighted and reported by many in our Industry and more does need to be done in this area in regards to the location of rest areas and the amenities available.

As a driver I want to focus on the existing rest areas before we increase them. The catch cry is "Fatigue", as an individual who is subject to all the requirements of fatigue management, there is an element of the farcical when it comes to existing rest areas. It is often impossible for a single or double trailer combination to park in the "truck parking area " of a rest area, a truck parking area or a service centre.

Easter this year was a farce for heavy vehicle drivers. As nearly all major service centres' truck parking areas on the M31 between Sydney and Melbourne were taken over by holiday makers and caravans. In the Caltex service centre, Yass, NSW even the truck refuelling areas were 'taken over' by cars. So that it was impossible to enter with a semi-trailer or b double. Heavy vehicles that had been parked up were unable to leave the service centre as they were blocked in by cars, cars' with trailers and caravans. A similar situation occurred at the twin BP service centres at Wallan, Vic.

Rest areas along the Hume were similarly blocked up all the way to Melbourne. The only exception was the two Shell service centres at Gundagai (Nth & Sth) who placed security guards at the entrances to the truck parks and only allowed trucks and buses entry. This was most appreciated by us heavy vehicle drivers.

I believe that the various state governments have to take this issue seriously and 'police' the rest areas at the very least during peak holiday times and long weekends. Many of us drivers were unable to stop at a designated area and 'mange our fatigue properly, instead the only option was to find a pull over area close to the highway with no amenities and try to rest.

The Chain of Responsibility needs to be not only levelled at individuals, companies and corporations BUT at governments and their minsters as well.