



Media Release

LBRCA CALLS FOR ATO TO RE-CONSULT OVER EMPLOYEE TRUCK DRIVER MEAL EXPENSES DETERMINATION

The Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association (LBRCA) is calling for the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to re-consult with industry to justify and provide evidentiary reasoning for the significant decrease to reasonable meal expenses for employee truck drivers.

The reasonable meal expenses for employee truck drivers has been slashed by 43% or \$42.10 this financial year. Last year the allowance was \$97.40 – this year the allowance is \$55.30.

On the flipside, it appears that if you wear a white-collar your allowance rises by \$2.45.

LBRCA members want the ATO to justify why a meal allowance for a truck driver should be significantly lower than any other employee.

“It is disappointing that truck drivers are again treated differently to the white-collar workers with comparable employees (for example a public servant working for the tax office) to be rewarded for their easily accessible variety of fresh and healthy meal options through an increase to their meal allowance”, says LBRCA COO Bec Coleman.

“I’m at a loss as to how the ATO has come to this determination”.

“A \$2.45 increase for white collar workers while a \$42.10 decrease for blue collar employee truck drivers”.

“Truck drivers are already disadvantaged through the lack of available amenities, particularly those operating in rural and remote areas, such as access to healthy meal options that don’t empty the back pockets”, Ms Coleman says.

The LBRCA is working to inform our members of the changes to record keeping practices, namely:

- If you spend more than \$55.30 on meals – you must keep records for every cent.
- If you spend less than \$55.30 on meals – you are not required to keep

“We are also working, through our national body, the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association (ALRTA) to argue that the determination should be reversed, and that the consultation paper allegedly issued by the ATO, be re-issued to industry for re-consultation”.

“It is important to provide justification and evidence to support this significant change and this includes ensuring the broad views of the industry the change distresses, are adequately consulted”.

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