

# Road Safety Bulletin



## TWU Survey of Tanker Drivers

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) has urged the Transport Workers Union to convince drivers pressured to work dangerously to report illegal incidents.

The call came after TWU National Secretary Tony Sheldon unveiled a union survey of tanker drivers focusing on safety and maintenance and defended the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (RSRT) as a bulwark against such practices.

“It is already an offence to pressure drivers to speed or skip rest breaks,” ATA National Manager Government Relations and Communications Bill McKinley says.

“If the TWU is serious about their allegations, they should provide the evidence to the police and road transport authorities and not just hold press conferences.”

Sheldon says a dispute would be lodged with the RSRT “seeking action to hold clients accountable for skipping safety checks and setting impossibly low pay rates or delivery times”.

The TWU says the survey gained more than 90 responses from oil tanker drivers in eastern states, with 33 per cent of respondents from NSW, 40 per cent from Victoria, 25 per cent from Queensland.

Respondents had worked in the industry for between nine months and 43 years behind the wheel. Average industry experience was 16 years.

Survey results:

- 26 per cent of drivers were pressured to speed while driving petrol tankers
- 49 per cent were pressured to skip rest breaks and drive while fatigued
- 26 per cent were pressured to falsify their log books
- 33 per cent were threatened with job losses if they report serious safety issues on sites they deliver to.
- 45 per cent said their employers delayed oil tanker brake maintenance to save money and keep vehicles on the road when they should be in repair.
- 84 per cent said they have insufficient knowledge of the maintenance record of the vehicles they’re given to drive

<http://www.fullyloaded.com.au/news/industry/1402/mcaleese-says-tragedy-probe-means-no-comment/>



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