



Mr Jeff Dart
Coroners Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
Level 11 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Dart

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH DENIS J MICALLEF
Court reference: COR 2010 001756

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2013 regarding the inquest finding including the recommendation made by Coroner Parkinson regarding the death of Denis J Micallef.

The recommendation made by the Coroner is:

That VicRoads consider investigating whether it would be an appropriate or effective road safety measure to require installation of front-end video camera mechanisms on heavy vehicles.

VicRoads provides the following response to the Coroner's recommendation.

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

VicRoads has previously considered the related matter of side visibility around heavy vehicles at a national level with other Commonwealth and jurisdictional regulators. While VicRoads is unable to directly measure the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries caused by a lack of visibility around heavy vehicles, in discussions with these regulators, the view has been formed that the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries involving vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists) and heavy vehicles at intersections is likely to be low.

Given this low propensity for crash and the size of the heavy vehicle fleet (18,269 heavy vehicles sold in Australia between January and July 2013, and 25,560 articulated trucks registered in Victoria), it is unlikely that any increase in regulatory stringency aimed at averting such crashes, such as requiring cameras to be fitted to trucks could be justified even if such measures had clearly established effectiveness. Front cameras are yet to be shown to be an effective means of reducing rear end collisions such as the one that struck Mr Micallef from his motorcycle.

However, VicRoads recognises that there are different regulatory requirements for prime mover front visibility in place in other jurisdictions such as Europe. Additionally there are voluntary steps that industry could take to improve the frontal visibility of prime movers.

Accordingly, VicRoads will raise the broader issue of frontal visibility of prime movers at the next scheduled meeting of the national vehicle regulatory forum, the *Strategic Vehicle Safety and Environment Group*. This forum includes heavy transport industry representatives and other state and Commonwealth vehicle regulators.

VicRoads also notes that given the size of heavy vehicles and the natural visual obstructions this creates, it is important the other road users consider the reduced visibility around these vehicles, in particular the area close to the front and side of these larger vehicles.

Should you require further information, Mr James Holgate, Director – Vehicle and Road Use Policy (Tel: 9854 2550), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



PETER TODD
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15/10/2013