

10th May 2019

April has been a month of very little business for the LRTAQ. However, the focus has definitely been on "the state of the nation" with the Federal election looming ever closer.

- **Back in early April**, animal activists carried out "visits" to a number of rural based enterprises, mainly on the eastern seaboard, and as reported in today's "*Courier-Mail*" edition, two fines (being \$1300 and \$1000) were issued to two vegan activists who entered a Darling Downs feedlot.
- In last week's "*Queensland Country Life*", Tom Marland, an agribusiness lawyer from Bundaberg, wrote a most interesting opinion piece round the agricultural industry being able "to articulate what we do, why what we do is important and how we can get better into the future".

As rural transporters, we need to continue contributing to that discussion and articulate what we do best, how we do it and how to make rural transport better - safe working environments, improved road infrastructure, better animal welfare outcomes...

Hopefully, concerns of the rural transport industry will have more positive outcomes following the Federal election next Saturday 18th May.

- On **Tuesday 9th April, the Queensland Ministerial Freight Council Meeting** was held in Brisbane with Minister Mark Bailey opening proceedings. During the hour long meeting, the main topic of discussion centred on **TMR's Queensland Freight Strategy and Action Plan**.
Other topics included the opening of the north-western rail line following earlier flood damage, the Brisbane Truck Show and the current and future commitments made by Federal Coalition Government in relation to the up-and-coming election.
- On **Friday 26th April**, we attended the **opening of the redeveloped Biggenden Saleyards, now known as the Burnett Livestock Exchange owned and operated by Lance & Stephanie Whitaker**. It was pleasing to be included in the celebrations particularly as the LRTAQ had provided a letter of support for a federally funded grant to be used in the construction. This new facility will provide significant monetary flow on to the local and further afield rural areas as well as the community of Biggenden.
- And of course, in the latter part of April, we've had Easter and school holidays, ANZAC Day and Labour Day. These three events definitely make it more difficult when trying to fit in work schedules and delivery of commodities.

- Over the **Labour Day Weekend**, the 2 day **Qld SES Disaster Rescue Challenge was held in Rockhampton**. Seven SES teams took part in rescuing and retrieving members of the acting public in various situations with one scenario taking place at **CQLX Gracemere**. With additional support from Frasers Livestock Transport (supplying a livestock outfit), a rescue had to be mounted to retrieve a severely injured livestock operator from the inside of the crate. This was a great experience for all involved. And **thanks to Athol Carter, Frasers Livestock, it was also an opportunity to display signs of the LRTAQ and the TruckSafe Animal Welfare**.
- Here in Maleny, it feels as if Autumn has arrived with cooler temperatures and hopefully some finer, dry days. However, you don't have to travel far to know that there are areas of the south-east and elsewhere within the state that need more rain in the coming months.
- Coming up next week is the **Brisbane Truck Show where the LRTAQ will be joining the ALRTA team to showcase rural transport**. We look forward to seeing you should you be in Brisbane.
- And as well as the Truck Show, next **Friday 17th May** is our **quarterly Delegates Meeting and AGM**. As always, the invitation is extended to you to come along to our meeting which is being held at the **TMR building, 61 Mary Street, City in the Ground Floor Meeting Room MG.08 from 8.30am**. Other attendees include **Andrew Mahon, TMR General Manager and representatives from AgForce's Transport Committee, Qld Logistics Council and TMR Rail**.

Cheers,

Ian Wild