

8th April 2019

The summer of 2018-2019 has provided us with experiences and statistics that many Queenslanders would prefer to have given us better outcomes. For some areas of the state, rain is still an elusive commodity. In other parts of the state, there has been enough of the liquid stuff.

Back in the late 1970's, Fiona remembers reading a newspaper article that stated rain/water would be the most significant issue for the 21st century and would be valued like "gold". And for many Australians, it is gold when we consider that water is the key to much of our country's economy.

- **Today, Monday 8th April, is expected to be a day where animal activists will hold protests in all Australian states.** Please be mindful of having discussions around safety and procedures should you or your employees be involved in protests today.
- **On Tuesday 5th March, TMR's Minister Mark Bailey opened a meeting attended by a broad range of industry and transport representatives around the future state of rail transport in Queensland.** TMR have commissioned Mott Macdonald to carry out a study to investigate the areas whereby rail can continue to provide ongoing positive, economic outcomes in the coming years. **The outcomes of this study should be available by June, 2019.** Attendees provided input re- services, reliability, infrastructure needs...
- **On Thursday 7th March, the LRTAQ's quarterly Delegates Meeting** was held at **Rockhampton** with topics discussed being the Roma Pad and Bungil Creek Bridge, Inland Rail Safety, long prime mover access, Livestock Loading Concession Scheme, effluent dump site progress, unloading facilities, Industry Action Plan and finally the Convention.
- Rockhampton provided us with a great venue (Korte's Resort) and fabulous fine weather for all members, sponsors, speakers and guests to meet, discuss current issues, enjoy good food and take part in social activities throughout the **2019 LRTAQ Convention** over the **8th and 9th March**. Many thanks to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at next year's event.
- **On Tuesday 12th March, the LRTAQ was invited to take part in the first of regular teleconferences organised by DAF following the flooding of northern and north-western Queensland** a few weeks ago. DAF is **organising a working group to focus on progress on fencing, restocking and associated issues for all members of those communities affected.**

- The **Electrical Safety Office (part of Industrial Relations ministry)** conducted an **industry forum on Wednesday 20th March focusing on strategies to reduce serious electrical incidents**. It was a most informative and engaging day of discussion in which all industry attendees expressed that everyone has an important role to play in turning around current statistics. For us as livestock and rural transporters, electrical safety is most important when considering overhead power lines and available safe access to loading/unloading facilities.
- On **Monday 25th March, I attended an AgForce Transport Committee Meeting in Brisbane in which we provided information to members around access, animal welfare and effluent, safety and the coming Federal election**. It was a most welcoming meeting in which much discussion took place. I'm sure future meetings with this committee will be positive and welcoming.
- On **Thursday 28th March**, I travelled to Canberra for an **ALRTA Code of Practice Workshop on "Managing effluent in the livestock supply chain"**. Other attendees included the NHVR, RSPCA, Agriculture Victoria, Cattle Council of Australia, ALFA, ALMA, ALPAA, livestock transport operators, trailer manufacturers, Qld & Vic. Police, Kilcoy Global Foods...
The day was focused on establishing key practical controls with effective communication to develop a registered industry code of practice.
The following day, **Friday 29th March, the ALRTA held their first Council meeting for 2019**. Items discussed included partnership proposals, current projects (effluent, loading frames), NHVR matters, Mandatory Minimum Rates and the review of the ALRTA conducted late last year.

Again, please make sure all staff are aware of procedures should they be caught up in today's expected animal activist protests.

Cheers,

Ian Wild