

### **Issue**

Following approaches by the Association, the RTA has made changes to the conditional registration for rubber tracked tractors.

### **Background**

- There are currently four manufacturers of rubber tracked tractors; AGCO, John Deere, CAT and Case IH. These manufacturers developed these vehicles because of better traction and reduced soil compaction compared to single wheel tractor models.
- The previous RTA restrictions on rubber tracked tractors prohibited:
  - rubber tracked tractors travelling outside 5km's from their garaged address
  - use on roads except when crossing
  - access to built up areas
  - access along highways/ freeways.
- These restrictions limited farmers ability to use these vehicles

### **Association work**

- The Association made representations to the RTA outlining the limitations that the conditional registration imposed on farmers and requested that they be revised to be consistent with the conditions as required in the registration of a pneumatic tyre tractor.
- A demonstration was organised in December 2006.
  - The demonstration included representatives from the Association, the RTA, the Tractor and Machinery Association, local distributors of the vehicles and affected farmers.
  - An AGCO and CaseIH rubber tracked tractor were required to perform a number of turns and passes on a sealed section of road to assess potential pavement damage.

### **Result**

- The RTA subsequently altered the conditional registration access of rubber tracked tractors to allow travel on public roads. However a number of conditions still exist including exclusion from built up areas and prohibited travel on highways/freeways.
- The Association approached the RTA regarding these conditions indicating that they would still restrict the movement of rubber tracked tractors on rural roads. The level of access also contradicted RTA promises of equivalent road access with pneumatic tired tractors
- The RTA subsequently assured the Association that there is flexibility under condition LO3 that permits a local RTA Registry Manager to designate specific routes for travel and this may include local highways and routes.
- Members with issues relating to the local RTA Registry and the interpretation of the LO3 condition are advised to contact the Association.

**Cat Challenger rubber tracked tractor**



**John Deere rubber tracked tractor**

