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## Header brake light win for farmers

The NSW Farmers' Association welcomes the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) taking the necessary measures to permanently exempt vehicles such as headers from installing brake lights.

NSW Farmers' Association Grain Committee Chair John Ridley says the RTA's announcement follows six successive moratoriums since 2003 which removed this requirement and a promise in April 2006 to permanently exempt the vehicles.

"We are pleased that our lobbying efforts have led to this common sense outcome. Headers don't require brake lights and their safety record without them speaks for itself. They are large vehicles and have existing signaling measures such as amber lights, flags, oversized signs and escort vehicles," Mr Ridley said.

"This is a great win that will save farmers \$45.6 million in compliance costs," Mr Ridley said.

The permanent exemption will take effect on 1 September 2007.

Mr Ridley says the current moratorium was due to run out on 31 December this year, but this decision means that further moratoriums will not be required.

"The Association will now focus on other road transport issues impacting on farmers, including chain of responsibility legislation and out of date general permit dimension thresholds," Mr Ridley concluded.

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***Fast fact: Agricultural exports from NSW is valued at \$1.25 billion annually***