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Driver fatigue changes: A win for farmers and for common sense

The NSW Farmers' Association has welcomed yesterday's announcement by the NSW Government that the exemption currently provided to primary producers under the heavy vehicle driver fatigue laws will be maintained and legislated.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie says the Government's decision, announced by the Minister for Roads, the Hon. Michael Daley, is a lobbying victory for the Association and maintenance of common sense legislation.

"Seven months ago, the Minister granted a short-term exemption for farmers under the heavy vehicle driver fatigue legislation, and now he has announced that the exemption will be made permanent and therefore enshrined in legislation," Mr Laurie said.

"We are very supportive of the changes to the legislation announced yesterday. Such common sense decisions indicate that the Minister is not only willing to listen, but is also ready to act on the concerns of our Members," Mr Laurie said.

Under the exemption, primary producers will not be required to fill out a work diary for local area work. Primary producers in NSW will not be required to carry and complete a work diary if they operate entirely within a 160km radius of their base.

According to Mr Laurie, the Association is taking an active role in working with the NSW Government to ensure red tape is reduced.

"The Association will continue to participate in the roundtable discussions on heavy vehicle driver fatigue to ensure the new legislation does not adversely affect the farming sector in any way," Mr Laurie concluded.

**Note for Radio: Audio grabs from NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie are available from the Association's website (www.nswfarmers.org.au/media_centre/audio_grabs).*

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