

Transport Industry Embraces Greenhouse Challenge



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Australian Greenhouse Office

Australia's heavy transport industry is becoming greener and the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) is playing its part to help increase industry involvement in the battle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It is internationally recognised that the world is experiencing significant climate change and global warming, and unless these issues are tackled now, the outlook for future generations may be bleak.

While we know that only 38% of diesel usage is attributable to trucks, and that passenger cars are the main contributor to the problem (trucks only produce 1.7% of Australia's greenhouse emissions, compared to 6.7% for cars), all vehicle owners can take steps to contribute to a cleaner future.

The Greenhouse Challenge gives transport operators the opportunity to play their part in a way which will be economically beneficial and good for the environment.

Fifteen companies and associations in the road transport industry have signed agreements under the AGO's Greenhouse Challenge program, while 11 others are developing agreements.

The following NatRoad Member companies have joined the Greenhouse Challenge: Australia Post; Bunker Freight Lines; D & P Haulage Pty Ltd; Freestone's Transport; Nolan's Interstate Transport; and Roadmaster Haulage.

Under the Greenhouse Challenge program companies are encouraged to carry out an audit of their energy consumption and identify measures which can be adopted to improve the company's energy efficiency.

Companies committed to the program are benefiting already through savings in energy costs while playing their part in looking after the environment by helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Some activities being undertaken already by companies involve driver training with regular mechanical servicing, routine tyre inspections, the use of synthetic oils and the introduction of industry specific management systems.

The changes brought about by the heightened awareness are evident among both drivers and management.

Drivers are taking an increasing interest in efforts to achieve greater fuel efficiencies and seek feedback on the in-cabin electronic monitors of fuel consumption.



Nolan's Interstate Transport – part of the Greenhouse Challenge

Cultural change also is evident in management with companies paying greater attention to details such as aerodynamics, airbag suspensions, tyre and rim sizes and rim material.

Some companies have found that aluminium rims provide a weight saving while others have established that with B-Double routes opening up significant fuel savings can be made using trailer combinations.

Others have confirmed that savings can be made when all tyres are correctly inflated and the air pressure is maintained.

When taken up by Greenhouse Challenge members, these measures have led to significant cost savings on top of the reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

To expand the involvement of the industry, the Greenhouse Challenge transport team is currently working with NatRoad, the Australian Trucking Association, and the Victorian and New South Wales Road Transport Associations to encourage companies which predominantly work within the urban freight sector to join the program.

The campaign is underway in Melbourne and companies operating in the Sydney and Newcastle areas will be visited in the near future.

And the campaign won't be confined to the heavy transport industry. Two rail companies and one airline company have joined the program and are currently developing their agreements. The transport team also is working with motor car fleets and bus and coach companies to embrace light commercial and general motor vehicles.

For more information on the Greenhouse Challenge program visit the AGO web site on [HYPERLINK http://www.greenhouse.gov.au](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au) or contact: Allan Bright or Brian Lamont in Canberra on (02) 6274 1744. ❖