

## Powick Taryn

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**Subject:** FW: Political Alert - Senator Muir joins fight for safe rates (FED) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 275R1701.DOC

-----Original Message-----

From: Redmond Ann  
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 12:44 PM  
To: [ben.davies@employment.gov.au](mailto:ben.davies@employment.gov.au)  
Cc: Daffey Chris  
Subject: FW: Political Alert - Senator Muir joins fight for safe rates (FED) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Ben

I assume you have received this too. I don't recall seeing anything from Sen Muir himself on this though.

Let us know if you need anything from us.

Regards

Ann

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-----Original Message-----

From: CCH Parliament [<mailto:politicalalert@cch.com.au>]  
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2014 11:10 AM  
To: [politicalalert@cch.com.au](mailto:politicalalert@cch.com.au)  
Subject: Political Alert - Senator Muir joins fight for safe rates (FED)

Please find attached:

SENATOR MUIR JOINS FIGHT FOR SAFE RATES (FED)

The Transport Workers Union today announced a victory in the campaign for Safe Rates in the trucking industry as critical crossbencher, Senator Ricky Muir, pledged his support to retain Australia's road safety watchdog - the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (RSRT). The RSRT is crucial to preventing large companies such as Coles from 'sweating' drivers by imposing unrealistic deadlines. Despite its important role in keeping our roads safe, the Coalition Government

has indicated it would like to axe the RSRT. Speaking from the Safe Rates breakfast briefing at Parliament House, Canberra, TWU Assistant Secretary Michael Kaine thanked Senator Muir for his commitment to build support for the retention of the RSRT.

275R1701

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Thursday 2 October 2014

### **SENATOR MUIR JOINS FIGHT FOR SAFE RATES**

The Transport Workers Union today announced a victory in the campaign for Safe Rates in the trucking industry as critical crossbencher, Senator Ricky Muir, pledged his support to retain Australia's road safety watchdog - the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (RSRT).

The RSRT is crucial to preventing large companies such as Coles from 'sweating' drivers by imposing unrealistic deadlines. Despite its important role in keeping our roads safe, the Coalition Government has indicated it would like to axe the RSRT.

Speaking from the Safe Rates breakfast briefing at Parliament House, Canberra, TWU Assistant Secretary Michael Kaine thanked Senator Muir for his commitment to build support for the retention of the RSRT.

"The RSRT is an important tool in the battle for Safe Rates and we are grateful to have gained Senator Muir's support to help save lives on our roads," Mr Kaine said.

"The RSRT is the only body with powers to intervene when transport clients like Coles use economic pressure to force faster deliveries at the expense of safe and fair conditions for truck drivers.

"When drivers aren't paid enough to maintain their vehicles or earn a living wage, they are forced to drive too fast, skip breaks or carry overweight loads just to survive.

"Up to 330 Australians die in truck crashes each year. Many of these deaths could be prevented if clients like major retailer Coles stopped using economic pressure to squeeze drivers."

Senator Muir said he was glad to join the fight for safer roads. "Road safety has always been something I'm passionate about.

"Keeping the RSRT and setting fair rates for truck drivers will help put an end to the lethal pressures in trucking that see too many truck drivers delaying truck maintenance to meet unsafe client demands. This will mean fewer deaths on Australian roads so that's why I'm supporting this campaign."

The announcement comes as new polling shows 73% of Australians believe companies such as Coles that put economic pressure on truck drivers to drive longer and faster should be held accountable for the impact this has on road safety.

Mr Kaine said this new data shows the importance of road safety to ordinary Australians.

“According to this poll, 62% of people have been injured in a road crash or know someone who has been injured or killed in a road crash and, while 62% of people support the Tribunal, nearly half of respondents would like to see the RSRT’s safety powers strengthened,” Mr Kaine said.

“I hope other Federal Government politicians bare this in mind when they accept multi-million dollar donations from Coles at the expense of road safety.

“We are proud to have Senator Muir join us in telling the Government safe roads are not for sale.”

Senator Muir and the TWU were joined at the briefing by long standing Safe Rates supporter Senator Glenn Sterle who accompanied the widow and sister of a truck crash victim.

In February 2011 David Tagliaferri had stopped by the side of Old Coast Road near Myalup, WA to change a flat tyre and Albert De Beer had pulled over to help him when a semi-trailer, after more than 13 hours behind the wheel, drifted off the road, killing both men.

Mr Tagliaferri’s wife, Lystra, said at the briefing that major clients like Coles need to share responsibility.

“I know that the accident that killed my husband wasn’t an isolated case of one driver behaving badly,” Ms Tagliaferri said.

“Major transport clients must be held to account for setting low rates, enforcing unrealistic deadlines, and refusing to pay drivers for waiting time. The industry is pressuring thousands of drivers across the country to skip breaks, speed, and carry overweight loads.”

Truck driving is Australia’s most dangerous occupation, with a workplace fatality rate 15 times higher than the national average.

Results from the road safety polling show:

- 62% have been injured in a road crash or know someone who has been injured or killed in a road crash
- 62% support the RSRT
- 43% support strengthening safety powers of the RSRT
- 73% believe companies such as Coles that put economic pressure on truck driver to drive longer and faster should be held accountable for the impact this has on road safety.
- 87% support fair pay for truck drivers
- 92% support more realistic deadlines for truck drivers

- 90% say it's important that the government take action to make the trucking industry safer.

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