**REGIONAL VIC WORKSHOPS ADDRESS FARMERS’ ROLE UNDER UPDATED HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY LAWS**

**18 February 2022**

Peak grains representative body GrainGrowers has partnered with the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](https://www.nhvr.gov.au/) (NHVR) to host free workshops in regional VIC (Barnawartha, Elmore & Horsham) next month to help farmers better understand their role under Chain of Responsibility (COR) laws.

Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport Scott Buchholz said the practical workshops—designed specifically for farmers—would help ensure produce was transported from paddock to plate in the safest possible way.

“Farmers are an essential part of the supply chain, so it’s important they understand their responsibilities to ensure they’re operating safely, and in compliance with COR laws,” said Assistant Minister Buchholz.

“This is an opportunity for farmers to check their safety procedures and mitigate any risks associated with their transport task.”

“I’d encourage all primary producers to sign up to the free workshops.”

GrainGrowers General Manager of Policy & Advocacy Zachary Whale said, “Primary producers have legal obligations under the Chain of Responsibility if they own or operate a heavy vehicle, or if they contract transport services to another operator.”  
  
“Everyone who has influence over a transport activity has a role to play."

“Whether you pack, load, consign, move, receive, or unload goods transported on Australia’s roads, these laws apply to you. Our workshops have been designed to ensure everyone working on the farm can access practical information.”

With the supply chain and logistics industry accounting for 26%\* of national worker fatalities, reducing the risks related to transport safety is critical.

“To comply with the law, you will need to know the risks of your transport activities and have business practices in place to control them,” said Mr Whale.

The COR workshops have been funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator’s Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, supported by the Federal Government, and have been held in towns across QLD, VIC & NSW.

NHVR CEO Sal Petroccitto said the Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative had so far allocated $22.8m through 89 separate grants over the past five years.

“The NHVR’s number one priority is the safety of everyone in the heavy vehicle supply chain,” Mr Petroccitto said.  
  
“Projects like the COR workshops for farmers help improve safety for the entire industry - whether that’s at the farm, in the warehouse or on the road.”

Places are limited and registration essential for catering purposes, so individuals are encouraged to secure their spot [here](https://www.graingrowers.com.au/events/chain-of-responsibility-workshops).

**VIC COR workshops:**

Barnawartha | 1 March 2022 || 10.00AM – 2:30PM ([Register](https://www.graingrowers.com.au/events/chain-of-responsibility-barnawartha))

Elmore | 2 March || 12.00PM – 3.00PM ([Register](https://www.graingrowers.com.au/events/chain-of-responsibility-Elmore))

Horsham | 3 March || 10:00PM – 2.30PM ([Register](https://www.graingrowers.com.au/events/chain-of-responsibility-horsham))

**Media Representatives:**

Mr Whale – Shona Gawel 0479 052 734

Mr Buchholz – Scott O'Connell 0413 424 384

Mr Petroccitto – Claire Rosenberg 0403 808 462

**Link to download images:** [here](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8drqfuk2p8d55ik/AAAvMp_yFEagZl8WItNm5cwLa?dl=0)

*\*Source: SafeWork Australia*

**About**

GrainGrowers is a voice for Australian grain farmers with grower members across the country. We work to build a more profitable and sustainable grains industry for the benefits of Australian grain farmers. Our key pillars are policy and research, alongside grower and industry development, designed to build on the knowledge and capability of growers. Our growers are at the heart of all that we do and the focus of our work.