



MEDIA RELEASE 11 November 2008

POLICE FRONT VTA TO REDUCE TRUCK SPEEDING ON MONASH FREEWAY

Victorian Transport Association (VTA), Chief Executive, Philip Lovel, said today that he was shocked at the activities of truck drivers on the Monash WestGate Corridor. He said, "Inspector Greg Parr, Victoria Police (Region 1) fronted a VTA General Freight Committee meeting today and said unless the Transport Industry gets its act together and obeys the traffic management signs on the M1 construction sites, Victoria Police will embark on a major enforcement program with every resource available".

Mr. Lovel said, "Many truck (and car) drivers are disobeying the speed restrictions without regard for road construction workers. It appears to me that drivers assume workers are not on site – this is far from the fact – they are probably working near or underneath the construction site."

The facts are that construction along the Monash CityLink – Westgate corridor will go on for the next 18 months. It is a working construction site and all drivers must conform to the speed limits imposed, even at night or when you think that no one is around.

Inspector Parr said that drivers caught 25kph over the speed limit would lose their licence for 3 months, while drivers caught 45 kph over would lose their licence for 12 months and the truck would be impounded for 48 hours. This means that anyone caught doing 85kph in a 40kph zone would face a stiff penalty, personally and on behalf of the business.

Mr. Lovel said that Victoria should be renamed "The State of Road Works" as there are many new road developments planned, such as the Westgate Bridge strengthening and the major works shortly planned for the Western Ring Road.

Mr. Lovel warned "The truck industry, including all commercial vehicles must start to take heed of differeng speed limits. I have no doubt that any major accident involving road workers will mean stiff penalties for the offending drivers."

The VTA General Freight Committee and the VTA's On Road Operators' Group fully support strong action by the authorities. At the present time the major offending companies are being identified and visited by the Highway Taskforce.

The VTA makes a plea to all motorists and truck drivers to obey the speed restriction signs –*Ignore them at your peril!*

For further media information contact:

Philip Lovel, Chief Executive, VTA, or Lucille Bolger, Communications Manager, VTA, on Ph: (03) 9646 8590

Wirraway Drive Fishermans Bend 3207
PO Box 5 South Melbourne 3205

t. 03 9646 8590
f. 03 9646 8596

admin@vta.com.au
www.vta.com.au