



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 May, 2017**

## **Victorian Small Business Commissioner to address State Conference 2017**

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) is pleased to confirm the participation of Victorian Small Business Commissioner **Judy O'Connell** in its annual State Conference.

"Small businesses are vital to the efficient running of our state and national economy, and within the transport industry small and medium sized business make a phenomenal contribution and deserve much support and recognition," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"The office of the Victorian Small Business Commissioner (VSBC) is a critical part of that support network, and we are pleased that Commissioner Judy O'Connell will address delegates on the important work they are doing to promote a competitive and fair operating environment for small and medium businesses."

The Victorian Government established the VSBC in 2003 to give small and medium sized businesses enhanced support in what is a very competitive operating environment. Its success led to the establishment of Small Business Commissioners nationally in New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia.

The VSBC supports small business by promoting informed decision-making, mediating business-business, business-government, retail tenancy, owner driver and forestry contractor, and farm debt disputes. It also helps to resolve disputes between taxi drivers and operators, and investigates complaints about unfair market practices, and minimises disputes between small and large businesses.

"Dispute resolution can be a drain on productivity for even the largest of businesses, but for small businesses without the capital resources of their larger counterparts, it can be enough to send them under. For this reason alone, the VSBC is an important resource for small businesses – including those that move freight – to have available to them," Mr Anderson said.

"We look forward to hearing firsthand from Judy about her office's role in supporting this important part of our economy."

The VTA continues to accept discounted Early Bird registration for the conference, being held at Mantra Lorne on the Great Ocean Road from 4-6 June under the theme of ***Make Your Business More Productive – Learn from the Experts***. Those that register by Friday, 12 May will be entitled to the Early Bird rate of \$1100 plus GST, which includes the full conference package of two nights' accommodation, breakfast, lunch, dinner and drinks each day, including the Welcome Networking Reception and main Conference Dinner on the Monday night.

To register online visit [www.vta.com.au](http://www.vta.com.au) or call the VTA on 03 9646 8590

**Ends...**

**For further information, please contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 284.**