



MESSAGING GUIDE FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH POLITICIANS

Your conversation with your politician should focus on your story and experience in the industry. Give details about what you've experienced, how long you've been in the industry, what's changed in that time and what Safe Rates mean to you. Can you pay your bills? Does your truck need maintenance? Have you ever had to rush to complete a job? How does this affect you?

But, here are some other key ideas to consider and try and throw in the conversation:

TRUCK DRIVERS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR COUNTRY.

- Without truck drivers, there wouldn't be food on the shelves of supermarkets, money in our banks, petrol in our cars, and our streets would be flooded with rubbish.

BUT, THE INDUSTRY IS IN CRISIS.

- Every year, hundreds of people die on the road.
- In the past 10 years, over 2,500 people have died in truck related accidents.
- The industry is 12 times more dangerous than any other in Australia.

THAT'S BECAUSE TRUCK DRIVERS ARE BEING SQUEEZED. AND THE CAUSE OF THIS IS BIG BUSINESS AND COMPANIES — WHO ARE OUR ECONOMIC EMPLOYERS.

- Truck drivers suffer from low wages, no time for maintenance and tight timeframes to do their work - all of which can be deadly.
- This is because big companies are cutting costs in their contracts, squeezing and fragmenting the industry, the rates and the conditions by playing drivers and the transport companies against each other.
- They are doing this just to save money, putting profits over the lives of people in our community.

THIS ISN'T SUSTAINABLE.

- The industry is dangerous and in crisis.
- This has to be addressed.
- Politicians need to take a stand with us to fix it.