



MEDIA RELEASE

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STATE GOVERNMENT JOB CUTS REDUCE CHECKS FOR HEAVY VEHICLE INDUSTRY AND INCREASES ROAD RISK

The State government will cut up to 21 jobs involved in heavy vehicle inspections across NSW only weeks after a fatal petrol tanker crash at Mona Vale highlighted the need for greater safety assessment.

Public Service Association of NSW, Senior Industrial Officer, Ian Lambert, said the government's decision will delete team leader positions filled by highly experienced staff that spend half of their time on the road undertaking frontline inspections.

Up to 500 less trucks will be inspected every week, according to the union.

"Slashing heavy vehicle inspection roles at RMS means there are less people checking vehicles are safe to be on NSW's roads," Mr Lambert said today.

"The inspection of the Cootes fleet by RMS and police inspectors following the Mona Vale incident has identified serious faults resulting in tens of defect notices.

"Without independent, government oversight, the community cannot have confidence in the safety of heavy vehicles on our roads.

"This tragic accident would suggest greater resources are needed to guarantee heavy vehicles are road worthy, not irresponsible budget and staff cuts by the State government.

"A shift to self-regulation of heavy vehicles has not delivered the safeguards needed.

"While some heavy vehicle operators may maintain high standards, it only takes one dodgy operator who cuts corners to place lives and property at risk.

"The best deterrent is knowing there are expert government inspectors out on the roads ready to crack down on drivers and operators who flout the law.

"The PSA calls on the NSW government to abandon plans to cut staff involved with heavy vehicle inspection activities across the state," he said.