

# MEMBER NEWS

Edition: April 2018



**AGFEST** is fast approaching and we are pleased to advise that PET will be there again this year.

We will be located at Site S. 35 on the corner of South Street and Fifth Avenue, opposite the Betta Milk Pavilion.

Please call by to catch up and meet with our staff and committee members who will also be in attendance from time to time.



## INVITATION TO ATERNOON TEA WITH PET

As previously indicated your Committee will be holding its May meeting in Ross.

You are invited to join the PET Committee and staff for afternoon tea. We'd like to hear what employment issues are currently facing our membership and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**Date:** Thursday, 17th May 2018

**Time:** 2:00pm to 3:00pm

**Venue:** Somercotes, Mona Vale Road, Ross (just off the Midlands Highway) [Map](#)

Please let Vanessa know if you will be attending so we can cater accordingly. [vanessa@primaryemployers.com.au](mailto:vanessa@primaryemployers.com.au)

## HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY

Amendments to the Chain of Responsibility laws will commence later this year. The changes will align the existing laws more closely with workplace health and safety provisions.

The onus will be on all parties in the chain, including primary producers, to reduce the risks related to the safety of transport tasks.

Although the laws will change they will still only apply to activities over which you have responsibility or could influence, and you must therefore take the necessary steps to ensure safe practices.

It doesn't matter if the vehicle is yours or someone else's, if it has a GVM of more than 4.5 tonnes, you become part of the supply chain and have responsibilities and duties.

More information is available at [www.nhvr.gov.au/cor](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/cor)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Thursday, 28 June 2018 in Launceston and all members are invited to attend.

The Australian Electoral Commission will soon be contacting all members seeking nominations for the positions on the Committee. This notification will go to all financial members as at 19 April 2018.

On the agenda will be proposed changes to the Rules of the Association.

The main changes are to:

1. Allow all members to nominate a representative, to make it easier for members who may not have the time to participate fully in the affairs of the Association, but would like someone to do so on their behalf.
2. Introduce four-year terms for committee members, with an election of half the committee every two years. This will help the Association establish a culture of long-term thinking and ensure the continuity of corporate knowledge.

The full list of changes, together with the rationale for each change will be emailed to members. If you have any questions or comments on the proposed changes, please feel free to contact me (0418 599 727) or Andrew (0407 200909) and we will be happy to discuss.

## AWARD UPDATE

The Fair Work Commission is currently reviewing all awards. Matters being addressed include:

- Family Violence Leave
- Flexibility for employees
- Annualised salaries
- Overtime and penalty rates for casuals
- Meal Breaks
- Allowances

Final determinations are yet to be made and we will advise members when the Commission approves the respective changes to the relevant awards.

## QUAD BIKE SAFETY

The ACCC recently released its Quad Bike Safety Regulation Impact Statement.

The five options put forward are as follows:

<b>Option 1</b>	Take no action at all (status quo)
<b>Option 2</b>	Make a mandatory safety standard in relation to quad bikes and SSVs that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adopts the ANSI/SVIA 1–2017 US Standard for quad bikes</li> <li>requires post manufacture testing for quad bikes and SSVs in accordance with the requirements of a safety star rating system and the disclosure of the star rating at the point of sale</li> <li>Requires an additional warning on quad bikes alerting the operator to the risk of rollover</li> </ul>
<b>Option 3</b>	Make a mandatory safety standard that satisfies all of the requirements of option 2, and in addition requires general-use model quad bikes to be fitted with an operator protection device
<b>Option 4</b>	Make a mandatory safety standard that satisfies all the requirements of option 2, and in addition requires general-use model quad bikes to meet minimum performance tests for mechanical suspension, stability and dynamic handling. It also requires that all wheels be able to rotate at different speeds
<b>Option 5</b>	Make a mandatory safety standard that satisfies all of the requirements of Options 2, 3 and 4

The ACCC considers that Option 5 is the preferred option as it is likely to prevent more deaths and injuries.

PET supports Option 5.

It was also noted that under the Federal legislation, a safety standard could not do the following:

- impose user age restrictions
- mandate passenger restrictions
- mandate speed limits
- impose an obligation to wear personal protective equipment
- impose an obligation on users to receive training or a licence for the operation of these vehicles.

However, that does not preclude Tasmania from introducing its own legislation, regulations or standards.

### DEDICATED AGRICULTURE VISA

The Weekly Times ran a front-page article recently, promoting the need for a dedicated Ag Visa.

Subscribers to The Weekly Times can participate in a poll “Should agriculture have its own working visa?”

We encourage all members who are also subscribers to complete the poll in favour of an Ag Visa, to address labour shortages across the agricultural sector [Ag Visa Survey](#)

### SHEARING INDUSTRY DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

The shearing industry drug and alcohol policy document and poster is now available on our website.

We recommend that the poster is placed prominently in the shearing shed, the shearers’ quarters and any other location that is relevant.

Similarly, copies of the policy should be readily available, and copies placed in the workplace and quarters. If anyone has any queries about the policy or poster, please contact PET.

**Felicity Richards,**  
President



Contact your Regional Manager to find out how.

Rod Stewart mobile 0428 558 158

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