

Truck Safety Forums

Reducing driver fatality is the aim of a series of Truck Safety Forums to be held across Gippsland during June. These forums will address driver concerns such as rollover prevention, vehicle dynamics, fatigue and road condition reporting and operator concerns such as e-work diaries, safety defects, permits and developing Codes of Practice.

John Ernst, South Gippsland Shire Council's Road Safety Awareness Officer believes these forums are an important step in helping to improve driver safety. "Almost 200 truck drivers are killed on our roads each year in Australia and the truck drivers are at fault in less than one in five casualty crashes. We need to explore how we can reduce this statistic.

"There have been a number of very visible safety improvements made across Gippsland including the introduction of wire rope and guard barriers and the reductions of speed limits. However, there are many other less obvious safety issues which can contribute to crashes such as vehicle dynamics, optimistic bias and the relationship between pay and rest. We need to have some open, and sometimes difficult conversations to ensure our truck drivers are supported and to help secure the future of our transport industry," said Mr. Ernst.

The sessions will feature a number of speakers and there will be an opportunity for participants to help progress some of the issues that are identified. They will be held across Gippsland from 5.30pm – 8.30pm at the following locations:

- Leongatha - 25 June: South Gippsland Council Chambers, Michael Place, Leongatha
- Warragul - 26 June: Warragul Exhibition Hall, 15 Howitt Street, Warragul
- Bairnsdale - 27 June: RSL, 2 Bairnsdale – Forge Creek Road, Bairnsdale
- Traralgon - 28 June: Traralgon RSL, 109 – 115 Grey Street, Traralgon

Truck drivers and operators are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact John Ernst, Road Safety Awareness Officer 1300 007 080 or 0429 007 080.

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