The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat

Ref: MC26-009462

Mr Dan Repacholi MP
Member for Hunter
PO Box 526
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

via: dan.repacholi.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr ~~Repacholi~~ Dan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 June 2026 to the Treasurer, the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, on behalf of your constituent, s47F about the reintroduction of the Commonwealth Road User Charge (RUC) and cost pressures impacting her transport business. Your letter was referred to me, as this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government's Economic Resilience Program is intended to support manufacturing and logistics businesses in specific economic sectors (freight, fuel, fertiliser, plastics and other critical supply chains) who have been materially impacted by market disruptions related to the current conflict in the Middle East. I understand s47F concerns regarding communication of the program through participating banks. The program has received strong interest from industry, reflecting the important role the program is playing in supporting eligible Australian logistics and manufacturing businesses affected by market disruptions.

While delivery of the program is undertaken by the banks, feedback from businesses on their experience is valuable and helps inform ongoing discussions with the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation and participating lenders.

The government extended the fuel relief package for a further month to 2 August 2026. From 1 July 2026 to 2 August 2026, fuel excise was reduced to 36.6 cents per litre. The heavy vehicle RUC was reduced by 16 cents per litre for the period.

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The extension of temporary fuel relief built on several measures the government has introduced which support the heavy vehicle sector, including:

- the $2.9 billion package to more than halve fuel excise and reduce the heavy vehicle RUC to zero for three months from 1 April 2026 to June 2026;
- the $1 billion Economic Resilience Program under the National Reconstruction Fund providing zero-interest loans to eligible small and medium enterprises, including heavy vehicle operators;
- Australian Tax Office support measures, including extended debt repayment arrangements for businesses facing fuel-related financial pressures; and
- the Fair Work Commission (FWC) Road Transport Contractual Chain Order – Fuel Cost Recovery (the contractual chain order). The contractual chain order set obligations on parties in road transport contractual chains to regularly adjust the rates they pay for road transport work to reflect changes in fuel prices.

I appreciate s47F seeks an additional extension to the fuel relief, however, these measures were designed to be temporary. While the RUC reverted to its usual rate on 3 August 2026, I have not yet made a decision about the scheduled increase in January 2027, and the government will keep the broader fuel supply and cost situation under constant assessment.

The government remains committed to supporting the heavy vehicle sector and will continue to monitor the situation.

Thank you for bringing s47F concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King MP

19 /8 /2026

cc The Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP, Treasurer

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