

Submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)

CPB Contractors Pty Limited exclusive dealing notification N10000537

Submission: QSTA Pty Ltd

Submission date: 16 November 2020

Background

QSTA provides HVNL and safety auditing services and is part of the CPB Contractor's preferred auditor list.

QSTA was created based on many years of safety management experience of one of our directors in rail and construction. He investigated numerous incidents and accidents involving heavy vehicles and plant that tragically in 2 cases resulted in death.

Views on the Notified Conduct

QSTA is pleased to be included on CPB Contractor's panel as it is based on the panelists' experience, expertise, qualifications and demonstrates CPBs commitment to not only legislative compliance but a proactive duty of care to all persons on site and the public out on the road.

QSTA believes, the Notified Conduct will result in public benefits by supporting the objectives and intent of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) in minimising risks to workers, the general public, private property and public infrastructure.

Public benefits will result from third party involvement in assessing HVNL related risks and impartial feedback on safety initiatives and processes to reduce risk and achieve continuous improvement that we believe CPB seeks to achieve via this scheme.

QSTA submits that the public benefits will outweigh the risk of reduced competition because there are multiple parties on the panel with different cost structures.

Panel members are all working towards outcomes that benefit the public through reduced risk, increased awareness of HVNL requirements of road transport operators and ultimately saving lives.

QSTA would recommend CPB Contractors' approach to other clients.

QSTA believe that due to the high safety risks associated with the HVNL work environment including high exposure of the public to heavy vehicles and their operators. These risks are all influenced by organisational culture within the thousands of organisations and, not every auditor is equally suitable to provide the required level of auditing services. QSTA is in agreement with CPB Contractors perspective in attempting to limit the businesses that may provide these services to those that are suitable to engage based on experience, integrity, processes and an evidence driven approach to compliance.

Kind Regards

Dave Smith

Director

QSTA Pty Ltd