

Draft Movement of Wool Bales Policy as at 1 October 2010

<p>Background</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ The New South Wales Roads & Traffic Authority (NSW R&TA) previously administered a width exemption for trucks transporting wool bales, so long as they were in compliance with the Wool Loading Code. ✦ The Wool Loading Code was developed to provide for best practice in the safe and proper carriage of wool bales. The Code is recognized in the revised Load Restraint Guide issued nationally as the method for transporting and restraining wool bales. ✦ Other jurisdictions, including Western Australia, administer notices / permits which provide for the legal and safe carriage of wool bales by heavy vehicles. ✦ When a heavy vehicle is loaded with wool bales in accordance with the Wool Loading Code, the rounded end of each bale protrudes over the edge of the trailer. ✦ Since the Compliance and Enforcement, Mass Dimension and Load Restraint provisions commenced in 2005, the width exemption was discontinued. ✦ It is widely acknowledged by parties involved in the transport of wool bales, including many enforcement officials, that the only practical way and the safest way to load a truck is in accordance with the Wool Loading Code, and to do otherwise may be dangerous. ✦ In fact, the method of loading bales is reflected in the NSW 4.6 Metre High Vehicle Route Notice 2008.
<p>The Issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ The NSW R & TA and Police can and do penalise truck drivers and businesses for transporting wool bales that protrude beyond the 2.5m width regulation. ✦ This makes the movement of wool bales illegal, which has significant public liability and insurance issues ✦ NatRoad has made representations to the NSW Government and R&TA seeking resolution. ✦ Dozens of loads of wool bales, containing thousands of wool bales, are transported through and across NSW every day. ✦ Wool bales are manufactured to a standard. This standard is not

	administered or in control of the trucking industry.
NatRoad's View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ NatRoad seeks to resolve this matter by introducing an exemption notice, similar to that already in place for the movement of other special needs goods in NSW. ✚ Our view is that so long as the seam of a bale is inside the combing rail of a trailer, and the load is safely restrained in accordance with the Wool Code, the load should be permitted to travel. ✚ Truck drivers and business owners should not be held responsible for the manufacture of wool bales. ✚ Should the NSW Government wish to resolve the manufacture issues this cannot be achieved by persecuting truck drivers and operators. ✚ NatRoad and its members insist that the NSW Government has the ability to legally hold those parties that manufacture the wool bales responsible, the NSW R&TA must pursue the responsible parties under Chain of Responsibility laws. ✚ NatRoad has placed an opinion piece in the newspaper Owner Driver.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ NatRoad will continue to make representations to the NSW Government including the R&TA.
What members can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Talk to your local Member of Parliament about this issue.