



Heavy Vehicle Rest Areas

Problem statement

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is seeking an innovative, technology-based solution for heavy vehicle drivers to access information about rest areas. This information is currently held by TMR in a spreadsheet and is only available to departmental officers. Making the rest area information available to all road users will improve road safety outcomes as well as future opportunities for the information.

Overview of the problem

Driving when fatigued significantly increases the risk of crashing, and is a major road safety issue in Queensland. Having information readily available about rest areas such as facilities and parking bay sizes will encourage safer road use.

There are over 500,000 heavy vehicle licence holders and over 90,000 heavy vehicles registered across Queensland.

For the first time in Queensland, an audit was able to capture a comprehensive set of data about heavy vehicle rest areas that included accessibility of each site, images of each site, facilities available (for example types of toilet facilities, Wi-Fi access and seating area), site quality and site conditions. The information captured will be beneficial to heavy vehicle drivers as it will enable a more effective fatigue management planning prior to and during their journey.

The proposed project is to take the rest area audit data and make it available via an application. Features desired include a GPS routable base map, a check-in function (useful for the dangerous goods industry) and a driver feedback system to report maintenance needs and/or other comments about the rest area.

Opportunity for applicants

The Testing Within Government (TWiG) Program aims to help Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve the positioning of their products for government and large enterprise markets by working collaboratively with Queensland Government on a range of problems.

Applicants are invited to propose ICT solutions to these problems, and if selected, receive funding to test their product in collaboration with Queensland Government.

Being selected as part of the program will offer the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and experience improving the potential to access broader commercial opportunities in Queensland, Australia and abroad.

At the end of the program, the applicants will have an opportunity to showcase their products and their TWiG program experience to a wide group of government representatives, which could lead to a procurement activity in Queensland Government.

Why is it important

Having immediate access to rest area information may assist to improve the health and wellbeing of heavy vehicle drivers which can contribute to reducing the crash risk and crash frequency involving heavy vehicles. This proposal has the support of the department's Heavy Vehicle and Safety Working Group which is an industry led body that reports directly to the state's Ministerial Freight Council. It is also a Queensland Government commitment to ensure delivery of heavy vehicle rest areas.



Problem context

The customer

Heavy vehicle drivers and road users.

How the problem is currently being solved

In 2016, a comprehensive rest area audit was completed that identified 2,931 rest areas varying in quality across Queensland's road network. TMR is progressing upgrades to heavy vehicle rest areas, however, these works have to be carefully planned in the department's investment pipeline. An immediate low cost solution to enable access to rest area information may assist heavy vehicle drivers to better meet their fatigue management obligations.

Technical constraints

- Offered as a service
- Internet/mobile accessible

Benefits sought

- Encourage a safer road use culture among transport operators and employees.
- Mobile availability of heavy vehicle rest area information.
- Potential to expand to other markets such as the non-heavy vehicle rest areas.