



Australian Truckie!!!!!! Endangered Species

Welcome to the new foreign truckie working in Australia on a 457 visa, you know him don't you, he's the one who can't speak English, doesn't know how to change a tyre, service a truck, identify potentially dangerous mechanical failures, and worst of all is not familiar with the road rules and protocols of trucking.

These people are being brought into the country to fill the shortfall of skilled workers and drivers in our industries, a problem brought about by stupid Government regulations and charges.

Any potential truck operator worth his or her salt could not be bothered entering the transport industry with all the hassles of on road harassment, poor pay, unrealistic work demands and no family life, why would you want to torture yourself like that? Over regulation has been the cause of the shortfall in the growth of drivers in this industry for years and Government is to blame.

I'm a little intrigued by how these foreign people with a 457 visa can get a truck drivers license for any combination and can't speak English, and how do the law enforcement officers deal with these people when they are intercepted, because they can't communicate does the officer walk away thinking it's all too hard, or does the officer carry out his duty and persevere.

It seems that multi-national carriers can bring these foreign people in and have no conscience about the consequences when it all goes wrong, but then we have Chain of Responsibility (COR) to prevent this happening, don't we, unfortunately that takes place after the fact, and it's too late when someone is dead to start pointing the finger.

Under COR legislation in this situation is the Government culpable? After all they created the 457 visa, Or do we blame some poor bugger caught up in this mess who becomes the 'fall guy', rules made by Government for some strange reason do not apply to Government, how does that work?

I think some serious adjustments to the way road transport is viewed and treated in this country is long overdue, moving freight around Australia without trucks is pure fantasy, taking them off the road in an attempt to fix global warming is short sighted and dangerous to the Australian economy, common sense needs to prevail, but I won't hold my breath waiting for that to happen.

Mick Pattel

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