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Minister for Jobs and Skills
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Ms Tabatha Badger MP
Member for Lyons
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 28 May 2026 in Parliament, regarding Sustainable Timber Tasmania's (STT) operating hours.

Forestry operations are currently being undertaken within the Meander Valley and Kentish area by a number of forest managers, including STT.

Due to operational and logistical considerations, including the location of harvesting crews and the need to maximise transport efficiency through the full utilisation of truck capacity, early morning truck movements may occasionally occur.

It is not always possible to redirect trucks to alternative routes, as STT does not hold permits for all road networks that may otherwise be available.

STT takes community concerns seriously and has implemented a range of measures aimed at reducing the impact of these operations. These measures have included:

- limiting early morning movements to a maximum of two trucks
- reminding drivers of the importance of travelling through populated areas as quietly and considerately as possible
- transitioning to European-manufactured trucks for early morning movements where possible, which are significantly quieter

STT has responded promptly and respectfully to all issues raised by members of the Meander Valley and Kentish communities, maintaining a professional approach even in instances where communications have been challenging.

STT remains committed to maintaining open and constructive dialogue with members of the community regarding its operations and will continue to implement practical measures to minimise the impacts associated with its operations wherever feasible.

Regarding community-friendly hours of operation, heavy vehicles with a GVM over 4.5 tonnes are regulated by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), established by the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) and applied in Tasmania by the *Heavy Vehicle National Law (Tasmania) Act 2013*.

As it stands, the HVNL does not set noise limits from the use of auxiliary engine compression brakes as these are safety systems that can be built into the heavy vehicle. The NHVR does not have any ability to take enforcement action for the noise level of auxiliary engine compression brakes.

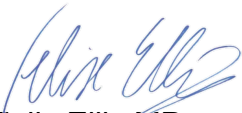
The NHVR may investigate noise in heavy vehicles which is a result of poor maintenance or from engine/emission tampering. The HVNL does not set restrictions on times of travel for general access vehicles.

However, for Restricted Access Vehicles (RAVs) road managers may apply conditions on heavy vehicles relating to the vehicle itself of the times and places where it can travel. These conditions are intended to ensure that they can operate safely on a public road.

These conditions ensure that the movement of vehicles are undertaken at stated times or in a stated direction such as the vehicle cannot travel at certain times of the day. The application of specific Road or Travel conditions by a Road Manager is determined based on public safety, road infrastructure preservation and public amenity.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours faithfully



Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

20/7/2026