

Organiser Ross Stone and volunteer driver Greg Fisher in Cockburn before completing their two-and-half day trip into Broken Hill from Esperance, WA. **PICTURE:** Myles Burt

HEAVENSEN

By Myles Burt

More hay has rolled in for graziers after Farmers Across Borders trucked 210 bales into the Far West.

Organiser Ross Stone and volunteer driver Greg Fisher drove into Cockburn yesterday on their 2,283km journey from Esperance, WA.

It was their second-last stop before offloading drought relief hay into the Broken Hill area.

So far, 60 road trains carrying 84 hay bales each have made the trek into NSW from WA since January to aid graziers. During a hay run to Cobar earlier this year, Mr Stone said he noticed the Far West was in pretty bad shape.

•If it needs it here, we'll keep

Stone said the convoys from Esperance were expensive, with fuel being the biggest cost. However, he said they had no plans to stop the road trains from rolling into NSW.

"If it needs it here, we'll keep coming over," Mr Stone said.

"If people just let us know, and we get areas, and there's not other drought relief people looking after that area, we'll definitely do it."

Mr Stone said they'll be baling up more hay in a months' time in Esperance, an area of Australia that is in no short supply of hay and rain.

"We've had some phone calls and we decided we'd have to deliver here as well, so that's why we've delivered," Mr Stone said.

Pastoralists in the Far West are very happy the hay donations coming through into the region, according to Mr Stone.

Far West Rural Supplies had been helpful, directing Farmers Across Bor the worst drought-effected areas in the Far West.

"We've got a 600ml rainfall," Mr Stone said.

"We got a bit carried away when we were baling and baled a lot of bales; we thought we had way too many but they're all gone."

Mr Stone said those who would like to donate to Farmers Across Borders' drought relief efforts can at https://bit.ly/2luF8FJ



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# Safety a top priority

# By Callum Marshall

The Point to Point Transport Commissioner Anthony Wing, the regulator for taxis and hire vehicles in New South Wales, is currently in the city to talk with local service providers about how they can improve the safety of their services.

Mr Wing said his discussions with local taxi, tourist and vehicle hire services involved checking to see that they were running safe systems and highlighting their responsibilities within that.

"We deal very much with the service provider who's running the business," said Mr Wing.

"We hold them accountable for the safety of their systems ... and of their vehicles and their drivers.

"I brought my audit team with me and they're talking to people about making sure they understand what they have to do ... to make sure they're running safe systems.

"Broken Hill is one of the first regional towns I've come to essentially because I spoke to my staff and they said to me, 'having been there recently, we need to go.'

"And I said, 'fantastic, let's go.""



Point to Point Transport **Commissioner Anthony Wing** 

Mr Wing said discussions with local groups had been very good thus far.

"It's really good to see people face-to-face," he said

"We get to see their business, they get to ask us questions directly, (there's) a much better chance of understanding exactly what the safety issues are they may be facing.

"The other benefit of being in Broken Hill of course is to talk to the local council, talk

to the police who are on the ground here, talk to the Roads and Maritime Officers on the ground here because they are the ones who are seeing local things.

"And they can call us and raise stuff if they see it and vice versa. We can talk to them about things and ask questions."

Mr Wing said that making sure the service providers were doing their proper vehicle and personnel checks was key to his and his team's discussions though.

"The road-worthy requirements in this industry are tighter than they are for a private vehicle," said Mr Wing.

"So for a private vehicle, they don't need a pink slip until they're more than five years old. We require that annually, no matter what the age of the vehicle.

"We (also) want to make sure that drivers are having criminal record checks when they come on because there are certain offences we wouldn't allow a person to drive a passenger with.

"There's also some additional rules, especially for taxis.

"They're required to have security cameras, and that's for the protection of both the passenger and the driver because, of course, they're picking people up off the street with no records of the booking.

"So for us, that's especially what we're looking at."

Mr Wing said that For Broken Hill specifically, maintenance issues and informing new service providers about their responsibilities as they emerge within a growing tourism environment, were the key areas to lookat.

"We need to look after maintenance here, because it can be hard on the vehicles sometimes, especially when going outside of town," he said.

"If vehicles are being taken outside town it can require more than what you might normally expect.

"The other thing is (that) this town does seem, (from) the thriving of the tourism industry, a bit different.

"Because what it's actually saying is that, 'this is an area where we're booming a bit, new people are coming into the industry, and we need to make sure the new people...understand how to run a safe system.'

"And I think that's somewhere that there's going to have to be a bit of focus (towards.)

"So we'll make an effort to make sure that all the staff are back here from time to time and that we're following up on the questions that have been raised."





Legatee Ray Bitmead (middle) with Legacy Widows (from left) President Beryl Broomhall, Barbara Stewart, Dot Bird, Margery Warren, Bertha White and Margaret Grimm getting **PICTURE:** Michael Murphy ready to sell items for Legacy tomorrow.



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# Helping hand for Legacy

By Michael Murphy

If you're out and about tomorrow, be sure to pick up something to support Legacy. The Broken Hill Legacy Widows will be out on Friday at the usual locations around the Silver City selling items to raise funds for Legacy, although they could use a helping hand. A part of Legacy Week, it's an

annual national appeal to raise awareness and funds for the families of incapacitated and deceased veterans.

It helps about 60,000 bene-

ficiaries, with 96% of them being elderly widows throughout Australia.

The money raised in Broken Hill will stay here.

Legacy helps with essential services such as counselling, special housing, medical, advocacy and social support.

Public support will also help Legacy nurture children's education, by contributing towards their school fees, books, uniforms, and recreational activities to aid their self development and confidence. Legatee Ray Bitmead said the Broken Hill Legacy Widows needed more support to continue

their good work in the community.

"They're numbers have dropped and they are struggling," Ray said yesterday.

"Helen Buddle from the Quota Club has been great, and they are helping out, but we really need more to help support the ladies," he said.

"If anyone is out there that can lend a hand, they would be more than welcome.

"We want to keep this going as long as we can."

For more information give Legacy Widows President Beryl Broomhall a call on 8087 4843.

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