



MEDIA RELEASE

11 June 2019

FSC comments on Cane Lorry Load Restrictions

FSC wishes to confirm that following various discussions with stakeholders, all acknowledge that sugar cane industry plays a pivotal role in our economy, employing directly and indirectly thousands of Fijians. Furthermore, 6-wheeler trucks comprise 97% of the lorry fleet delivering cane to the mills during the crushing season.

Sufficient notice has been given to all 6-wheeler truck owners, regarding excessive weight being allowed in the past and the need to adjust these exemptions.

It must also be considered that significant damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure is caused by overladen trucks. The Fiji Government has announced a significant reduction in tariffs for the importation of heavy machinery including trucks to enable a modernization of the cane haulage truck fleet.

The Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) will allow the following maximum weight restriction for 6-wheeler trucks carting cane to the mills during the 2019/2020 Cane Cutting Season – maximum gross weight of 16.5 tonnes.

FSC has met with the Fiji Cane Lorry Transportation Association and can confirm that in a signed letter to the Prime Minister's Office, they have undertaken to comply with this weight limit.

FSC CEO Graham Clark says "key considerations noted were that last year, the weight limit for 6-wheeler trucks was 17 tonnes and the average cane load delivered was 11.1 tonnes. The average tare weight of a 6-wheeler truck was 5.4 tonnes. With the 16.5 tonnes introduced this year and assuming the same average tare weight of a 6-wheeler truck being 5.4 tonnes, this will enable an average cane load of 11.1 tonnes, unchanged from the average delivery of last year".

In addition, the Fiji Cane Lorry Transportation Association has committed to road safety and supports load dimension restrictions of a maximum load width of 3 metres and a maximum height of 4.3 metres from ground level. This is in line with LTA regulations and will greatly assist in improving road safety.

FSC looks forward to the commencement of cane deliveries within these new limits for the benefit of the industry, the travelling public and the road infrastructure in Fiji.

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