

Scott BUCHHOLZ MP

Federal Member for Wright

To Whom It May Concern

As the Federal Member for Wright and Former Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport, I have long championed initiatives that improve safety across our road and freight transport networks. Having spent many years in the transport industry myself, I understand firsthand the challenges our heavy vehicle operators face on the road and the serious risks posed by bridge and infrastructure strikes.

I commend the outstanding work of Queensland company LSM Technologies, led by its founder Mr Peter Woodford. For more than two decades, LSM has been a leader in developing and delivering innovative safety technologies tailored to the heavy equipment, civil, mining, and heavy vehicle industries.

Mr Woodford's passion for safety is evident in the suite of more than 16 safety products he has designed, developed, tested, and manufactured right here in Australia. He is widely respected for his deep industry knowledge and commitment to finding practical, cost-effective safety solutions for complex problems.

LSM's latest innovation, BridgeSense, is an in-cabin alert system that notifies drivers when they are approaching a bridge or railway infrastructure at risk of being struck due to vehicle height. In my view, this is a game-changing technology that goes beyond passive safety measures and directly addresses a critical gap in our current safety systems.

Despite improvements in mapping and route planning, nearly 80% of Australia's 23,000 bridges and level crossings remain passive, without any active over-height warning systems. In 2024 alone, Australia recorded over 1,000 bridge strikes or near misses—incidents that cause costly delays, damage critical infrastructure, pose a danger to life, and impact road and rail users alike.

Campaigns such as Queensland Rail's "Size Matters: Know Your Trucking Height", conducted in partnership with the Australian Trucking Association and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, play an important role in raising awareness. However, as we know, awareness campaigns rely heavily on human attention and recall.

BridgeSense offers a genuine engineering control, reducing reliance on human behaviour and delivering a proactive solution in line with the hierarchy of controls framework widely accepted in the safety field. It represents exactly the kind of innovation we should be encouraging—Australian-made, forwardthinking, and focused on saving lives and protecting infrastructure.

I fully support the ongoing development and adoption of technologies like BridgeSense and congratulate Mr Woodford and the team at LSM Technologies for their commitment to making our roads and rail crossings safer for all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Scott Buchholz MP Federal Member for Wright

