



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **TOYOTA SPURNS PIPELINE INDUSTRY PLEA FOR SAFETY**

### **DEVICES THAT COULD REDUCE ACCIDENTS**

Leading vehicle manufacturer, Toyota, has rejected pleas by the Australian pipeline industry to install a safety device in vehicles that could substantially reduce roll-over accidents, the Australian Pipeline Industry Association (APIA) convention was told today.

APIA Safety Committee Chairman, Mr Mark Twycross, told delegates in Alice Springs, that the pipeline industry had frequently requested that Toyota install its Electronic Stability Device (ESD) in the 4WD vehicles most popular with the pipeline industry.

Mr Twycross said Toyota installed the device – which applies braking to individual wheels in response to road conditions and greatly increases vehicle stability – in its premier models but not the Land Cruiser and Hilux models that are “the workhorses of this industry”.

“We have had extensive discussions with Toyota but have been getting a negative response from the company,” Mr Twycross said.

“Toyota’s attitude is very disappointing because a Monash University study has shown that Electronic Stability Devices could reduce roll-over accidents by as much as 50%,” he said.

“Employing the best safety measures possible is vital to the welfare of our employees and the pipeline industry will continue to encourage Toyota to install this device in the vehicle models preferred by the industry.”

Mr Twycross commented on Toyota’s stand during a report to delegates about the work of APIA’s Safety Committee which has recently reviewed, revised and re-issued safety guidelines on ‘vehicle safety’ and ‘fatigue management’.

He said the pipeline industry was working hard to reduce the level of vehicle accidents within the pipeline sector.

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