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Route open to new truck combinations

By **CHRIS SMITH**

LARGER freight vehicles are being allowed on the Toowoomba-Port of Brisbane route in time for the peak grains haulage season.

A-double combinations will be used on the route, opening up the possibility of half the truck movements for the same freight task.

Use of the combinations on the route has been approved by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

PBS class B/A-double combinations are longer than currently allowed freight vehicles.

Goondiwindi-based Woods Transport will be one of the first companies to take advantage of the route, with a high-productivity vehicle

expected to halve the number of trips the company needs to complete its bulk grain-haulage task — shuttling two 28-tonne, 20-foot-equivalent unit containers from Toowoomba to the port.

The A-double combinations are built by O'Phee Trailers, based in Brisbane.

O'Phee Trailers general manager Mick O'Phee said Woods Transport averaged 500 TEUs a month at this point of the season and the practical benefits of the A-double combinations meant half the truck movements for the same freight task.

At the peak of the grains season this amount could double.

“For example if you base it on 500 containers a month, (with) the old system, because they are 28-tonne

containers, you could only transport them singly from Toowoomba down to the port because they are too heavy for B-double combinations, so they would have to go on a single trailer,” he said.

“This new PBS level 2B/A-double combination can move two, so we have halved those truck movements down to 250.

“It is a higher-productivity vehicle and it is all about working within the performance based standards framework, which isn't for everyone because not everyone can comply with the PBS framework as there are certain operational conditions that an operator must comply with,” he said.



O'Phee A-double combinations ready to roll on the Port of Brisbane route.