

UNDER-DEPRECIATING, SPECIALIST CARRIERS BEWARE



Specialist trucking operators and those who 'under-depreciate' their equipment face potential problems in the current economic climate, one of Australia's leading logistics companies says.

Following the Mannway collapse SCT Logistics Chief Executive Geoffrey Smith has issued a blunt warning to particular carriers, urging them to be extra cautious.

"The ones [companies] that might have been aggressively quoting and under-depreciating their assets are probably the types of companies that may get themselves into trouble," Smith says.

"They [Mannway] obviously have fairly specialist equipment and it would have been very difficult to shed."

Smith says SCT is confident with its position and does not expect to follow Mannway in the receivership pile.

"Under-depreciation is something we are pretty mindful of and I don't think we have fallen into that trap," he says.

"We have been fairly aggressively cost-cutting for a couple of years now and it's put us in good stead."

While saying that SCT is pleased with its current position, Smith adds that the position has been hard won and taken two years to achieve.

Smith declined to comment on whether SCT is looking at buying any of Mannway's assets or making a play for some of its contracts.

Expressions of interest in the company have closed, with receivers hopeful of appointing new managers in early December. ■

Who will eventually own Mannway? Read the news first at: www.fullyloaded.com.au

BORDER BOSS TAKES ATA-NSW HELM

Border Express boss Jon Luff has been appointed as chairman of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Trucking Association (ATA).

Luff takes over from Frank Johnston who retired as the inaugural chair of the organisation after two years.

Luff will put a strong emphasis on representing all aspects of the trucking industry.

"While there are still hurdles to overcome, it's important that we have a strong united voice, which represents the views of the entire trucking industry," he says.

TRANSPORT WOMEN APPOINT NEW CHAIR

Oxford Cold Storage's transport manager Jacqueline Brotherton has been appointed as the new chair of Transport Women Australia.

Brotherton has been involved in the transport industry since 1970 and will take on the role immediately as part of a shake-up of the association's board announced in Perth last week.

Board member Pam McMillan has been appointed the vice chair, while Merry Manton and Christine O'Brien have been newly appointed to the board.

Brotherton is currently the chair of the Refrigerated Warehouse and Transport Association Sub-Committee.

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