



# GRIFFITHS TRANSPORT

The NSW Supreme Court ordered Griffiths Garage to pay \$1 million in compensation and a \$16,500 fine for its role in the collapse of the Maitland pedestrian bridge in 2009. Consignee Rapid Access Australia was ordered to pay \$400,000 and was fined \$8,250.

The bridge collapsed when it was struck by an over height vehicle carrying machinery. Both parties were found guilty of breaching vehicle dimension regulations. The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) prosecuted both businesses under chain of responsibility law.

"This is the first time in Australia a road compensation order has been issued against parties in the chain of responsibility," RMS Director Peter Wells says.

"RMS welcomes the outcome of this important case as it sends a strong message to the entire heavy vehicle industry that damaging the state's infrastructure comes at a cost."

Wells says loaders, schedulers, drivers, owners, consignors and consignees need to be aware of their responsibilities when transporting freight.

"All loads must meet weight and dimension specifications before heading out on to the road. If they do not, RMS will hold all those in the chain responsible," Wells warns.

"This is about everyone in the chain of responsibility doing the right thing and taking reasonable steps to ensure loads meet specifications."

## PARTIES INVOLVED

CONSIGNOR  
LOADER  
TRANSPORT  
COMPANY  
CONSIGNEE

## EST. FINES & COMPENSATION

\$1,400,000

## CHARGED

GRIFFITH  
TRANSPORT &  
RAPID ACCESS  
HAVE BEEN  
CHARGED AND  
FINED AS "ALL  
PARTIES IN THE  
CHAIN OF  
RESPONSIBILITY"  
ARE LIABLE FOR  
BREACHES AND  
INCIDENTS.

## COR AUSTRALIA

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