

Communiqué



Austroads Board Meeting No. 36 2 April 2020 | Teleconference

The Austroads Board met on 2 April 2020 as a teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads and Louise McCormick, General Manager, Transport and Civil Services, Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Recognising service

The Chair thanked Matt Fuller (Transport for NSW) and Shane Gregory (State Growth Tasmania) for their service to the Austroads Board. Shane has served on the Austroads Board since 2012 and has been Deputy Chair since 2016. He was actively involved in numerous projects and was most recently the Board Sponsor for the Austroads strategic project – Safety at Road Worksites. Shane will be awarded the Austroads Medal.

The Chair also acknowledged the imminent retirement (15 April 2020) of the Chief Executive – Nick Koukoulas. Nick has led Austroads for 5½ years. His leadership in commercialisation of NEVDIS and the acquisition of TCA by Austroads was outstanding. The Board wished him well in his retirement.

Austroads response to COVID-19

Austroads has minimised the risks of COVID-19 as far as reasonably practicable while maintaining business continuity. Most staff at Austroads and TCA are now working from home and this is working well.

Most projects are progressing with only a few delayed. The review of units of competencies as part of the Safety at Worksites project, will be delayed by approximately six months.

Strategic Planning

The Board approved the *Austroads Strategic Plan 2020-2024*. The plan will be implemented from July 2020. The Board agreed to the adoption of processes to improve program management at an enterprise level and at the business activity level through a Program Logic approach to commence from the start of the 2020-2021 financial year and be fully implemented by the start of the 2021-22 financial year.

Research Work Program

2019-20 Work Program Overview

There were originally 107 projects approved in the 2019-20 work program, with 72 projects continuing from previous financial years and 35 new projects commencing in 2019-20. One project has been added since the last Board meeting, *Use of Recyclable Materials in Roads and Road Assets*. The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 3 March 2020.

Status	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Other	Total
Complete	13	1	7	8	-	30
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	1	-	-	1
Deferred	-	-	2	-	-	2
Active	27	5	24	23	1	71
Total approved	39	8	30	29	1	104

National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS)

NEVDIS collects, collates and distributes vehicle, licence, and registration data on behalf of the eight State and Territory road authorities and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. The system services 200 million+ transactions each year.

NEVDIS continues to support Safety Recall activities and the increased focus to resolve faulty Takata Airbag inflators. NEVDIS conducted Safety Recall data extracts for Takata Airbag related recalls at no charge from July 2017 – December 2020. To date Registered Operator details have been extracted against 27.5 million Vehicle Identification Numbers.

Next Austroads Meeting

A decision on the next meeting will be made closer to the date.