

## Communiqué

### Austroads Board Meeting No. 16

Canberra, 30 October 2013



The Austroads Board met on 30 October 2013 in Canberra. Andy Milazzo, Austroads Chair and Deputy Chief Executive, Transport Services, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure South Australia, chaired the meeting.

A new Board member, Peter Todd A/Chief Executive, VicRoads, attended the meeting. Peter has replaced Gary Liddle who has retired.

#### Review of Austroads Research Procurement and Delivery

A review of Austroads research procurement and delivery was undertaken earlier in the year. The Board discussed the implementation of the outcomes of that review which will result in changes to the way Austroads' research priorities are determined.

A new approach to research priority setting is being introduced for projects commencing in 2014-15. The Board will undertake a mid-term review of the current 2012- 2016 Strategic Plan and determine programs' research priorities based on the:

- Relevance to challenges currently facing jurisdictions.
- Level of national significance
- International developments and their potential implications for Australasian road agencies.
- Relationship to broader research in the area
- The value of Austroads' involvement in the process

The Board was keen to allow flexibility to respond to emerging issues quickly.

A new approach is also being introduced for the delivery of Austroads Road Safety research projects commencing in 2014-15 with the following nine organisations having been invited to register their interest in participating in the development and delivery of Austroads road safety research:

- ARRB
- MUARC – Monash, Victoria
- TARS – University of NSW, New South Wales
- The George Institute – Sydney University, New South Wales
- CARRS Q – QUT, Queensland
- CASR – University of Adelaide, South Australia
- CMARC – Curtin University, Western Australia
- TARS Research Group – Waikato University, New Zealand
- Opus Research, New Zealand

Other institutions may be invited to join at a later date.

The Executive Committee was tasked to undertake a wide ranging review of Austroads operations including the role of the Board, Program Managers and the national office including the management of the research program to maximise the value to member agencies. This will be a significant topic for discussion at the March Board meeting.

## Evaluating Austroads' Effectiveness

The Board has agreed on a program to review the effectiveness of Austroads. This will include:

- Surveys of Board and task force members
- Surveys of road agency representatives to gauge:
  - the extent to which the project outputs are being applied by member agencies and their impact
  - the use and benefit of Austroads guides
- Surveys of people who downloaded a selection of reports and guides
- An annual assessment of the performance and effectiveness of NEVDIS
- An annual in-depth study into an area of research covered by the ARRB Partnership Agreement

Discussions will be held with ALGA, IPWEA and Consult Australia to determine how best to obtain feedback from local government and external stakeholders.

The surveys will be undertaken in late 2013 and outcomes reported at the next Board meeting.

## 2013-14 Research Work Program

Progress with the work program for 2013-14 is summarised in the table below.

|                       | Assets    | Freight   | Network   | R & L     | Safety    | Technology | Other    | Total      |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Complete              | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         | 2          | -        | 2          |
| Deferred/cancelled    | -         | -         | -         | -         | -         | -          | -        | -          |
| Active                | 21        | 14        | 28        | 14        | 33        | 48         | -        | 158        |
| <b>Total approved</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>50</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>160</b> |

Details of the projects in the 2013-14 work program are available on the Austroads website.

## Reports

Austroads also considered reports from:

- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission
- Transport Certification Australia Ltd

## Austroads Awards

Austroads awards are intended to recognise the contribution of individuals to the work of Austroads. The awards are important because Austroads operates on the basis that the people doing work for Austroads, usually staff of Austroads member organisations, are doing that work in addition to their regular work for their own organisation. The success of Austroads is heavily dependent on the efforts and commitment of these individuals and the awards are a way of publicly acknowledging that.

The Board presented retiring VicRoads Chief Executive Gary Liddle with the Austroads medal. Gary has been a driving force in Austroads for the last decade and is a deserving recipient of the medal which is awarded to individuals who have made an exceptionally meritorious contribution to Austroads and the achievement of its objectives over a sustained period. This is Austroads' highest

award and is only issued in cases of the most outstanding contributions. We were fortunate to have the influence of his strong technical knowledge, highly developed interpersonal skills and a determination and commitment to making a difference. We wish Gary all the best in his retirement.

### **Austroads Annual General Meeting**

The Austroads Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the Board meeting. The Austroads Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2013 is now available on the Austroads website.

### **Future meetings**

The next Austroads Board meeting will be in Melbourne on 27 March 2014.