

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 22

Brisbane, 29 October 2015



The Austrroads Board met on 29 October 2015 in Brisbane, Queensland. Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services New South Wales chaired the meeting.

Strategic Planning 2016-2020

The Strategic Plan 2016-20 was endorsed by the Board and will be released later in the year. The Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials Committee supported release of the plan at their September meeting.

Engagement with Chief Scientists Group

Austrroads will coordinate a meeting in early 2016 with Australia's Chief Scientists to discuss research priorities.

Strategic Project Report

The Board has identified a number of high priority strategic streams of work and an update on these are provided below.

- **Harmonised Meta-Data Standard for road management and investment** is progressing well. A Project Manager has been appointed. Following a tender process, Opus International Consultants has been engaged to develop the standard, update the business case and impact statements and produce an implementation plan for the Board by the end of June 2016. An early and important deliverable from Opus will be a Communication and Engagement plan. Work has commenced on this and a summary will be presented to the July 2016 Board meeting. Broad consultation has been undertaken to date and is ongoing.

The ongoing input and engagement from all member agencies, and in particular the provision of information to the project was supported and Board members to communicate this through their agencies.

- Stage 1 of the **Developer and Government Contributions** project has been completed and the project is on track for completion in June 2016. The project aims to identify sustainable funding and financing options (including developer contributions) for remote and regional roads in Australia.
- The **Community Service Obligations** project proposal is being finalized. Consideration of all the current work associated with road pricing is being given, to ensure that the project will achieve its aims and contribute to the wider road pricing reform agenda. It is expected that the project proposal will be submitted to the Austrroads Chief Executive by December 2015 for approval.
- In July 2015, Deloitte was engaged to undertake research to better understand and quantify the benefits of strategies to improve the operational efficiency of the road network, reduce congestion and improve the reliability of customer journey times. The **Congestion and Reliability** project will be delivered in three work streams:
 - *Work Stream 1 understanding the causes of congestion and impact on reliability* is scheduled to be completed by end October 2015.
 - *Work stream 2 understanding the effectiveness of best practice interventions and strategies to improve congestion and reliability* is progressing in concurrently with work stream 1.
 - *Work Stream 3 constraints and opportunities to improve agency capability* has commenced and Deloitte has prepared a Capability and Maturity Survey that was distributed to jurisdictions in early October 2015.

The project is on schedule for completion as planned in December 2015 with reports published in early 2016.

- **Safety at Road Worksites** is a range of joint initiatives by Austroads and industry:
 - Safety at Road Worksites research.
 - Traffic Control at Worksites National Training and Accreditation.
 - Australian Standard AS1742.3 Traffic Control for Works on Roads.

A Safety at Road Worksites Steering Committee has been established and Dr Dan Sullivan has been appointed as Project Manager to lead safety at road worksites activities with road agencies and industry.

CARRS-Q has been engaged to undertake research to understand contemporary practice in safety at road worksites, benchmarking Australia to international practice and determine learnings and application to the Australian and New Zealand road network.

Austroads has recently finalised a Nationally Accredited Traffic Controller Training package, which will be made available to all road agencies in late 2015. Austroads Project Manager, Dan Sullivan will work with road agencies to support the implementation of training in the coming months.

The review of AS1742.3 Traffic control for works on roads has been approved by Standards Australia and the initial working group workshop was held in Melbourne in October 2015. It was agreed at this meeting that Austroads contribution to the funding of a technical writer will facilitate the acceleration of review timeframes with the intention to have a revised Standard drafted by mid-2016.

A recommendation will be brought to the April 2016 Board meeting on harmonisation of practices in this area with a Statement of Agreement to be signed by all jurisdictions and stakeholders. Full consultation and engagement with local government be undertaken.

- The project **Investigation of Potential Registration and Licensing Issues with the Introduction of Automated Vehicles** has been awarded to ARRB. A detailed project plan is currently being developed, before a literature review and stakeholder consultations commence.
- Parsons Brinckerhoff has been awarded the project **Assessment of Key Road Agency Actions to Support Automated Vehicles**. The project plan has been agreed to, and a literature review and stakeholder consultations have now commenced.
- The **review of the Guide to Bridge Technology** has commenced with members of the Bridge Task Force requested to review and provide feedback on allocated chapters.

Research Work Program

2014-15

There were 166 projects approved in the 2014-15 work program, with 128 projects continuing from previous financial years and 38 new projects starting in 2014-15. There were 32 projects scheduled for completion by 30 June 2015. Eleven were completed by that date.

During 2014-15 a total of 59 projects were completed, four projects were cancelled and four were deferred. At 30 June 2015 there were eleven projects which were overdue by more than 12 months and a further four by more than six months.

2015-16

The 2015-16 work program has commenced with a total of 145 active projects – 99 projects have carried over from 2014-15 and there are 46 new projects. Fourteen projects have been completed. There are currently 131 active projects.

The status of the 2015-16 work program as at 30 September 2015 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Freight	Network	R & L	Safety	Technology	Other	Total
Complete	-	1	5	1	5	1	1	14
Deferred/cancelled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	14	15	25	13	22	40	2	131
Total approved	14	16	30	14	27	41	3	145

The Board commended Program Managers and all those involved in the large number of projects that were successfully completed in 2014-15. The Board also acknowledged the good start to 2015-16 with a further fourteen projects completed and the reduction in numbers of late projects.

Governance

Neil Scales has been appointed to the office of Deputy Chair of Austroads Ltd until the October 2016 Board meeting.

Stephen Troughton has been appointed to the position of Australian first Delegate to the World Road Association.

Other Reports

The Board also considered reports from the:

- The Cooperative ITS (C-ITS) and Automated Vehicles Project Director
- The Australasian Certification Authority for Reinforcing and Structural Steels Ltd
- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission
- National Guidelines for Transport System Management Steering Committee.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 April 2016 in Perth, Western Australia.