

Communiqué

Austrroads Board Meeting No. 23 Darwin, 6 April 2016



The Austrroads Board met on 6 April 2016 in Darwin, Northern Territory. Peter Duncan, Chief Executive, Roads and Maritime Services New South Wales chaired the meeting.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and Austrroads Program Managers

The Austrroads Strategic Plan 2016-2020 was published in late 2015 following the Board's approval. A paper was provided updating the Board on the Plan and delivery of the associated communications strategy. Nick Koukoulas advised a presentation on the new plan has been delivered to a variety of audiences including Austrroads staff, Task Forces, Working Groups and stakeholders. To date the Plan has been downloaded from the Austrroads website more than 1,600 times and around 350 hard copies have been distributed.

Peter Duncan thanked the outgoing Program Managers and Coordinators for the excellent work they had undertaken during their time with Austrroads. He acknowledged the outstanding contributions they had made and commended them on their efforts, particularly as a number were undertaking Austrroads work in addition to their own extremely busy 'day jobs' within their jurisdiction.

Austrroads outgoing Program Managers and Coordinators are:

- David Darwin (NZTA), Austrroads Program Manager, Assets
- Sarah Mayne (NZTA), Austrroads Program Coordinator, Assets
- Marcus James (DIRD), Austrroads Program Manager, Freight
- Tracey Wilkinson (DIRD), Austrroads Program Coordinator, Freight
- Craig Moran (RMS NSW), Austrroads Program Manager, Network
- Jill Hislop, (Austrroads) Austrroads Program Coordinator, Network
- David Shelton (VicRoads) and Paul Rajan (DoT NT), Austrroads Program Manager, Registration and Licensing
- Leonie Pattinson, (Austrroads) Austrroads Program Coordinator, Registration and Licensing
- Iain Cameron (DoT WA), Austrroads Program Manager, Road Safety
- Natalie Lockwood (MR WA), Austrroads Program Coordinator, Road Safety
- John Spathonis (DTMR QLD), Austrroads Program Manager, Technology
- Craig Smith (DTMR QLD), Austrroads Program Coordinator, Technology

Two of the new Program Managers attended the meeting and were welcomed:

- Richard Yeo, Austrroads Program Manager, Assets
- David Bobbermen, Austrroads Program Manager, Safety.

Since the meeting, Natalie Lockwood has been appointed Austrroads Program Manager, Network.

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 Data Standard for road management and investment** continues to progress well. A draft standard was produced in January 2016 for consultation with the Data Harmonisation Steering Committee. A subsequent version was then released in mid-February 2016 for broader consultation. This initial draft standard was designed to be at a level of development to allow significant input from industry consultation. Workshops held in Australian capital cities and New Zealand have been very well attended and support for the Standard is generally strong.

Development is progressing on the supporting deliverables, including revised Business Case, Impact Statements, and Implementation Plan. Investment Mapping Logic activities are being pursued to support the Business Case and Implementation Plan.

- The final report from the **Developer and Government Contributions** project is nearing completion. The project aims to identify sustainable funding and financing options (including developer contributions) for remote and regional roads in Australia. This project has produced a comprehensive body of work and the scoping of a project for the development of a charging simulator is being drafted.
- The **Congestion and Reliability** project will deliver 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 project report will be provided to the next Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) meeting.
- The **Safety at Road Worksites** Steering Committee with representation from Austroads and peak industry bodies is providing a mechanism to deliver industry reform and harmonisation of temporary traffic management practice that provides agility and transformational change for road works safety.

This reform is underpinned by four key principles:

- Harmonised practice and accreditation.
- Agility to adopt changes to guidance and practice.
- Adopting a safe systems approach.
- Accessibility of information for a mobile workforce and industry.

Austroads will assume responsibility for the establishment and management of a Guide to Temporary Traffic Management Practice. A preliminary framework for the ten-part Guide series will be based on the holistic approach adopted by the NZ CoPTTM. The NZ model and process is being mapped to identify what suits Australia.

A review of the Australian Standard AS1742.3 has provided an opportunity to transition all guidance information from the current Standard to an Austroads Guidance publication, which will facilitate regular review and update. The review is proposing that all guidance information be removed from the Standard, leaving only the device information.

A Statement of Agreement has been signed by all jurisdictions committing to the in-principle adoption of a nationally harmonised approach to Temporary Traffic Control at Road Worksites.

- The project **Investigation of Potential Registration and Licensing Issues with the Introduction of Automated Vehicles** has been awarded to ARRB. An interim report on literature review and stakeholder consultations was delivered in early March. Assessment of the emerging issues for vehicle registration, driver licensing and third party insurance practices is progressing. The final report and guidelines are due end of July 2016.
- Parsons Brinckerhoff has been awarded the project **Assessment of Key Road Agency Actions to Support Automated Vehicles**. An interim report on literature review and stakeholder consultations is on track. Assessment of the emerging requirements for road operators with regards to physical and digital infrastructure is progressing. The final report and guidelines due end of May 2016.
- The **review of the Guide to Bridge Technology** has commenced with members of the Bridge Task Force.

Research Work Program

At the time of the Board meeting eight projects were running late, none more than 12 months late. The Board acknowledged this was an exceptional effort and thanked Program Managers and Coordinators, Project Managers and any staff involved in achieving this excellent result.

The 2015-16 work program has a total of 147 active projects. At the time of reporting 37 projects had been completed, and 108 projects were active.

The status of the 2015-16 work program as at 29 February 2016 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Freight	Network	R & L	Safety	Technology	Other	Total
Complete	1	4	9	3	12	7	1	37
Deferred/cancelled	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Active	13	12	21	9	15	36	2	108
Total approved	14	16	30	14	27	43	3	147

Other Reports

The Board also considered reports from the:

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

Andrew Kirkman, Chief Executive DoT NT, made a presentation to the Board entitled 'Working Towards Safer and Improved Territory Roads'.

Future Meetings

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