

Communiqué



Austroads Board Meeting No. 47 9 February 2023 | Brisbane, QLD

The Austroads Board met on 9 February 2023, in Brisbane, Queensland. The meeting was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Work Program 2022-23

The table below details the status of the 2022-23 work program projects as of 30 December 2022.

| Status | Transport Infrastructure | Transport Network Operations | Road Safety + Design | Future Vehicles + Technology | Environment + Sustainability | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Complete | 5 | - | 2 | 3 | - | 10 |
| Active | 30 | 11 | 27 | 5 | 4 | 77 |
| Total approved | 35 | 11 | 29 | 8 | 4 | 87 |

Priority Projects

Contemporary Heavy Vehicle Access Decision Making for Road Managers

In 2022, the Board approved a proposal by the Austroads Freight Taskforce to expand Tasmania's Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS) to Australia and New Zealand. The potential value of the system includes improved efficiencies for road managers, heavy vehicle operators and others involved in road access considerations. Austroads will work with our members to document the system requirements and concept of operations, considering the views of key stakeholders and the expectations of the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Reform Implementation Steering Committee*.

Harmonisation of Temporary Traffic Management Practice

This strategic priority project delivers a harmonised approach to temporary traffic management (TTM) at road worksites across Australia and New Zealand. Stage 2 of the project has commenced, which will:

- Provide consistent TTM practice delivery via oversight of prequalified TTM organisations and mutual recognition of TTM providers across participating agencies.
- Prepare Austroads to tender and procure a TTM IT system. Identify the Austroads resource requirements to operationally manage the Austroads TTM IT system. Document for each participating agency their adoption pathway of the Austroads TTM IT system.

The Austroads Innovative Temporary Traffic Management Device and Solution Assessment (AITDSA) Panel held their second meeting in December 2022 and recommended an additional product for use. Details of all four products recommended for use are available on the [Austroads website](#).

Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme

The Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) is a competency-based training scheme for the installation of roadside safety barrier systems designed to provide a level of assurance that installers of roadside safety barrier systems are appropriately trained and accredited. ASHTAS was formally launched with a webinar on 7 December 2022. Representatives from Austroads, Lantra Victoria DoT and Transport for NSW announced that the scheme was 'open for business'. Austroads and Lantra have launched ASHTAS websites, and training providers are now advertising training courses.

National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework

The National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) was open for feedback from 24 August – 28 October 2022. The Board endorsed a Decision RIS for consideration at the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers Meeting (ITMM) in May 2023, followed by working with our members to develop jurisdiction implementation plans for ITMM consideration.

Austrroads Road Asset Data Standard

The Board endorsed an Implementation Plan to drive implementation in 2023. The Road Asset Data Standard (RADS) has been the subject of Austrroads investigation since 2014. In 2022 Austrroads re-oriented the project from research and concept-based to an implementation focus with a desired end state of:

- voluntary acceptance of one standard – the Road Asset Data Standard – for road asset data in Australia
- RADS adoption and use by road agencies, local councils, road manager partners and service providers to enable standardised collection and comparison of quality road asset data, and
- incentivisation of RADS through a national Knowledge Sharing Platform (Knowledge Sharing Platform) developed and maintained by Austrroads that enables the storage, comparison, visualisation and reporting of quality road asset data.

Technical Specifications

Between September and December 2022, Austrroads Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) met three times and approved 20 specifications. There is now an increased focus on jurisdictional implementation of the published standards.

Other priority projects

The Board also noted progress on priority projects related to: developing an implementation strategy for overseas driver licensing; *Assessing Fitness to Drive* implementation; incorporating advanced driver assistance systems into driver licensing, education and training practices; review of financial assessment criteria of the National Prequalification System; development of a new *Guide to Digital Engineering*; an update to the standard bridge barrier design guidelines; implementation of a national code of practice to manage utilities in roads; assessment of bridge structural capacity; and additional NEVDIS data attributes for automated and electric vehicles.

Next Austrroads Meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday 4 May 2023 in Hobart.