

Communiqué

Austroads Board Meeting No. 18

Christchurch, 26 June 2014



The Austroads Board met on 26 June 2014 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Andy Milazzo, Austroads Chair and Deputy Chief Executive, Transport Services, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure South Australia, chaired the meeting.

Review of Austroads

At the October 2013 meeting the Board agreed that the Executive Committee should undertake a wide ranging review of Austroads operations. The review was to include the role of the Board, Program Managers and National Office, and the management of the research program to maximise value to member agencies. A report was made to the Austroads Board at its March 2014 meeting and included 16 recommendations.

A report was made to this meeting on the implementation of the agreed recommendations which aim to better align the strategic needs of member organisations with Austroads research work program and improve the ability of Austroads to be more responsive to emerging issues.

The main changes relate to:

- Role of the Board – the Board will play a more strategic role in setting overall priorities and overseeing progress in addressing these.
- Structure of Board meetings – observer organisations will no longer attend.
- Role of the Chief Executive – will approve individual projects within broader streams of work approved by the Board.
- Project management arrangements – the National Office will report to the Board on the overall implementation of the work program.
- Assessment of project proposals – will be subject to independent assessment before approval.
- Program budgets for 2014-15 – will be restricted and funds retained to meet Board determined priorities.

2013-14 Research Work Program

The status of the 2013-14 work program as at 16 May 2014 is summarised in the table below.

	Assets	Freight	Network	R & L	Safety	Technology	Total
Complete	3	2	8	6	6	10	35
Deferred/cancelled	-	-	1	2	-	1	4
Active	18	12	24	13	28	39	134
Total approved	21	14	33	21	34	50	173

2014-15 Research Work Program

The Board discussed strategic priorities for the Austroads work program. It was agreed that new streams of work be developed to address issues of:

- network productivity with a focus on congestion
- developer/industry contributions to government
- safety at roadworks
- asset registers
- community service obligations.

Outlines of the 2014-15 projects are now available on the Austroads website.

Heavy Vehicle Charging and Investment

On 23 May 2014, at the Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting, Ministers agreed that jurisdictions would commence work to implement four initial heavy vehicle investment and access reform measures. Initially, the Commonwealth will lead this work with ongoing work to be supported through normal collaborative business arrangements between jurisdictions. Jurisdictions will be looking to work with the managers of relevant Austroads projects to determine how these projects can best contribute to delivering on the initial measures agreed by transport Ministers.

Austroads Chief Engineers' Group

The Board agreed to the establishment of the Austroads Chief Engineers' Group. The group is to be comprised of the chief engineer or equivalent position from each Austroads' member organisation wishing to participate.

The group is to provide ongoing advice and guidance to Austroads on:

- Emerging technical issues which are expected to impact on the Australasian road system and Australasian road agencies where a national response would be appropriate.
- Prioritising the work of Austroads across technical areas and particularly in relation to bridges, pavements, road design and tunnels.
- Oversighting the current operation and future development of Austroads work in national product assessment.

In the short term to provide Austroads with advice on:

- Austroads structures and groups within the current Technology Program.
- Strategic priorities for Austroads technical research.
- The nature of the relationship with ARRB and the Technology Program.

Publications

Austroads has published one Guide, four errata to Guides, 11 research reports, four technical reports and one internal report since the March Board meeting.

From 1 July 2013 – 31 May 2014, 125,288 free publications were downloaded from the Austroads publications website. This includes research and technical reports and Guide downloads by member agencies and local councils.

2015 World Road Congress

The next four-yearly World Road Congress will be held from 2 to 6 November 2015 in Seoul, Korea. The Congress theme is *Roads and Mobility – creating new value from transport*.

Austroads has agreed to sponsor the prize for the best paper submitted on Safety and to conduct a competition for the best paper from a Young Professional from Australia or New Zealand. Details of the Austroads competition will be sent to member agencies in July.

The national office will coordinate arrangements for an Australasian delegation to the Congress.

Cooperative ITS Study Tour

The Young Professionals Study Tour recognises young professionals from Austroads member agencies who have demonstrated capability and knowledge in a specific field, and have the potential to benefit themselves and their organisation by participating in an international study tour.

The focus of the 2014 study tour was cooperative ITS (C-ITS). From March 24-April 3 Austroads Cooperative ITS Project Director, Stuart Ballingall led a small group of young professionals on a tour that included visits to key stakeholders, events and test facilities in both Europe and the USA. An initial report was made to the Board and a more comprehensive report will be circulated to member agencies in the near future.

Reports

Austrroads also considered reports from:

- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission

Austrroads Awards

Each year Austrroads Awards recognise the contribution of individuals to our work program. The people managing Austrroads projects and serving on task forces and working groups often undertake that work in addition to their regular work for member organisations. The awards acknowledge their efforts and commitment on which our success depends.

In 2014 Austrroads recognised the following people for Achievement Awards:

Ian Gould – Transport for NSW

For successful project management and delivery of two Freight Program projects, FS1703: Light Freight – Understanding its role in Urban Logistics and FS1812: Use of Auxiliary Brakes in Heavy Vehicles.”

Peter Croft – ARRB Group

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the technical content of the Guide to Traffic Management, leadership of Austrroads projects and participation on the Traffic Management Working Group.

Griff Davis – City of Whittlesea, Victoria (ALGA representative)

In recognition of his contribution to the update of the Guide to Traffic Management and liaison with Local Government as the ALGA representative on the Traffic Management Working Group.

Robert (Bob) O’Keefe – Roads and Maritime Services, NSW

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the update of the Guide to Traffic Management and to the Traffic Management Working Group’s understanding of the Australian Road Rules.

Deborah Davis – Department of State Growth, Tasmania

In recognition of her significant contribution to the Safety Task Force (2011 to 2014).

Pam Palmer – Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland

In recognition of her significant contribution to the Safety Task Force, management of projects and Safety Program as Program Manager (2012 – 2013).

Austrroads Chief Executive

Murray Kidnie informed the Board that he intended to leave the position later in the year. The Board agreed to initiate a recruitment process for a new Chief Executive. This will be undertaken by the Chair, Deputy Chair and Clare Gardiner-Barnes in consultation with the Board.

Future Meetings

The next Austrroads Board meeting will be in Hobart on 6 November 2014.