

Communiqué



Austroads Board Meeting No. 38 and Annual General Meeting 5 November 2020 | Teleconference

The Austroads Board met on 5 November 2020 via teleconference. The meeting was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Annual General Meeting

The Board approved the Report of the Directors, the Annual Financial Report and the Auditors Report for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Neil Scales was reappointed as Chair and Louise McCormick was reappointed as Deputy Chair of Austroads Ltd for two-year terms.

Two Directors were appointed to the Austroads Executive Committee until the October/November 2022 Board meeting. The Executive Committee comprises Neil Scales, Qld DTMR (Chair); Louise McCormick, DIPL NT (Deputy Chair); Geoff Allan, Chief Executive; Tony Braxton-Smith, DIT SA; and John Hardwick, TfNSW.

COVID-19 response

The Board requested Austroads prepare a paper for the next meeting describing the organisation's response to the pandemic and lessons learned.

Strategic Plan 2020-24 and Business Plan 2020-21

The Board supported the proposed approach to delivering the Strategic Plan 2020-24. The Business Plan 2020-21 has been developed from four perspectives: user needs, finance, systems, and staff capability. The projects and activities supporting the eight focus areas in the Strategic Plan are illustrated in Attachment A.

The Board endorsed continuing the Future Vehicles and Technology Program for a further two years, and to establish an Environment and Sustainability Program. Austroads will further consult with the State Road Agency Environment and Sustainability Forum on the terms of reference and possible projects for the new Program.

The Board also endorsed establishing a new registration and licencing committee to address system issues and advise on issues related to a national digital identity scheme.

Work Program 2020-21









There are 100 projects approved for the 2020-21 work program. The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 30 September 2020.

Status	Transport Infrastructure	Future Vehicles + Technology	Transport Network Operations	Safety and Design	Total
Complete	2	1	3	2	8
Active	28	2	16	16	62
Pending start	14	5	6	5	30
Total approved	44	8	25	23	100

Next Austroads Meeting

The Board agreed to hold quarterly meetings starting in 2012. The next meeting will be Thursday 4 February 2021 by video conference.

Attachment A: Projects and activities supporting the 2020-24 Strategic Plan focus areas

<p>Data Managing and harnessing the decision-making power of data</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road asset data standard • Data to support heavy vehicle road reform • Next generation asset data collection • Road authority data for connected and automated vehicles • Measuring non-fatal crash outcomes • Structural and real-time bridge health monitoring <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCA telematics data management and products • NEVDIS registration and licensing data management, capabilities and products • Proposed Registration & Licensing Systems and Personal Identity Committee. 	<p>Technology Optimising the benefits of new technologies</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a machine learning maintenance decision support tool • Best practice in smart motorways operations • Future vehicles trial database • Minimum physical infrastructure standard for the operation of automated driving • Guidance for road agencies supporting cloud connected road users • ITS testing, asset management and maintenance. 	<p>Sustainability Reusing materials, reducing emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of road-grade recycled plastics for sustainable asphalt pavements • National specification for crumb rubber binders in asphalt and seals • Use of crushed glass in road infrastructure • Sustainable rehabilitation treatments • Sustainable tunnels • Use of recyclable materials in roads and road assets • Increasing asphalt recycling with binder rejuvenators • Standardised signage and pavement symbols for low emission vehicles • Low emission vehicle charging infrastructure installation guidelines • Managing the impacts of aged heavy vehicles <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Sustainability Program. 	<p>Customers Understanding and meeting customer needs</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network operation planning <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with industry on the temporary traffic management training framework and prequalification scheme • Consultations with industry groups on the Austroads technical specifications • Ongoing consultations with registration and licensing agencies to develop NEVDIS. • Extended Austroads 94 vehicle classification scheme.
<p>Investment Optimising transport investment</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to Project Delivery updates • New Guide for Road Freight Productivity • National technical specifications • Decision making framework and tools for road freight access decisions • Review of financial assessment criteria of the National Prequalification Scheme • Review of impact of service authorities on infrastructure projects • Network Design User Guide. 	<p>Safety Improving safety for road users and workers</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to Road Safety updates (speed, regional road safety) • Guide to Road Design updates (intersections, road stereotypes, road users, roadsides) • Review of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework • Overseas Driver Licensing Policy Review • Safety at road worksites • Effectiveness and implementation of raised safety platform • Passing lane design • Motorcycle rider perceptive countermeasures • Dangerous goods in tunnels • Tunnel fire incident information system <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austroads Barrier Assessment. 	<p>Journeys Improving the reliability and efficiency of end-to-end journeys</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimodal incident management • Options for a national heavy vehicle bridge assessment system • Freeway capacity analysis and on-road public transport priority. 	<p>Infrastructure Delivering affordable infrastructure that meets community needs</p>  <p>Primary projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prolonging the life of road assets under increasing demand • Improving the cost effectiveness of asphalt surfaced gravel roads • Increasing the use of low-cost modified granular materials in new and rehabilitated pavements • Improving the cost effectiveness of foamed bitumen-stabilised pavements • Optimised asset management for bridges <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Prequalification Scheme for Civil (Road and Bridge) Construction Contracts.