

Austrroads Council Meeting No. 41
Hobart, Tasmania
22 March 2007

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austrroads Council met in Hobart on 22 March 2007. The meeting was chaired by the Austrroads Chairman Menno Henneveld. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

Austrroads Strategic Plan 2007–12

The Council endorsed a new strategic plan for Austrroads. The new plan will commence in July 2007, at the conclusion of the current plan, and cover the five years to June 2012. The strategic priorities are asset management, capability, freight, network, registration and licensing, road safety and technology. The new strategic plan is available on the [Austrroads website](#).

Knowledge sharing initiatives

In conjunction with the new strategic plan a knowledge sharing strategy has also been developed. It builds on the current strategy and incorporates the opportunities which have emerged through the publications website, feedback from stakeholders and suggestions from program managers. The strategy provides for the promotion of the awareness and utilisation of Austrroads outputs to the staff of road agencies, contractors, consultants and educational institutions. An important element of the strategy is the development of program specific annual knowledge sharing plans.

Research requirements of the Australian road industry

In 2006 Austrroads engaged consultants to prepare a report on the research requirements of the Australian road industry. The final report from the project was received in December 2006 and circulated to member and observer organisations with an invitation to comment. Council considered the report and the comments received at the meeting. Council considered that the report had been useful to establish the current situation in relation to road research in Australia. The report, comments received from member organisations and the response to the report provided by ARRB, identify potential initiatives which could be introduced to improve the benefits to road authorities and the research organisations. However, further work needs to be undertaken to develop these potential initiatives into specific proposals for consideration by the various stakeholders.

A small working group is to be established with representation from ARRB and Austrroads member organisations to formulate recommended actions in relation to the following:

- Development of a national road research register
 - Improved coordination and dissemination of research undertaken by individual authorities
 - Mechanisms to identify longer term strategic research priorities for the road industry
 - Improved procedures for the selection of Austrroads research projects including cost benefit considerations
 - Mechanisms to improve the awareness of international road research and its utilisation
 - Greater utilisation of research to increase professional development opportunities for road industry personnel and staff retention in road authorities.
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Support for the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education

The Council agreed to provide support to the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE) to assist with the revision of learning modules, development of new modules, as well as supporting its general operation. Council also agreed to encourage their staff to undertake courses conducted by CPEE. [Click here](#) for more information about CPEE and its courses.

COAG, ATC and SCOT

Progress on transport reforms initiated by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the recent meeting of the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) was considered at the meeting. Austroads is the road modal group for SCOT. How Austroads and its operations feed into SCOT are outlined on the [ATC website](#).

Also considered was a report from the National Transport Commission (NTC) and the work being done on performance based standards for heavy vehicles.

Progress on the 2006-07 work program

Project status as at 28 February was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	20	4	24
Capability	3	3	6
Freight	9	1	10
Network	12	3	15
R&L	8	1	9
Safety	20	3	23
Technology	24	2	26
Corporate	10	1	11
Total	106	18	124

Development of Austroads Guides

Council endorsed an updated plan for the development of Austroads guides including the format, contents of various parts of each guide, timetable for completion and the relationship between existing Austroads publications and new guides.

Preliminary consideration of the work program for 2007-08

Council gave preliminary consideration to the projects proposed for Austroads funding in 2007-08. Subject to final approval at the next Council meeting, continuing and new projects for 2007-08 were endorsed. These are shown in Appendix A.

Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics
- Transport Certification Australia — on the implementation of intelligent access.

Henry Parakei, Secretary of the PNG Department of Transport, attended the meeting as an observer and gave a brief overview of road transport issues in PNG.

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Austrroads awards

Austrroads awards are intended to recognise the contribution of individuals to the work of Austrroads. The awards are important because Austrroads operates on the basis that the people doing work for Austrroads, are usually staff of Austrroads member organisations and are doing that work in addition to their regular work for their own organisation. The success of Austrroads is heavily dependent on the efforts and commitment of these individuals and the awards are a way of acknowledging that publicly. The following awards have been approved:

Outstanding Service Award – Gary Norwell (Main Roads WA)

Gary Norwell is the Executive Director, Technology and Environment at Main Roads Western Australia. Gary has been involved with NAASRA/Austrroads since 1982 in the fields of road construction, asset management and road system management. He was initially the member contact; then Convenor of the Road Construction Liaison Group; a member of the Asset Management reference group; a member of Road System Management reference group; a member World Road Association's technical committee C6 –Road Management, for two terms, including four years as the chair; and was until December 2006, the Austrroads Assets program manager and organised and led the 2006 young professionals study tour to Canada and the US.

Outstanding Service Award – Geoff Shanks (VicRoads)

Geoff Shanks is General Manager Registration & Licensing at VicRoads. Geoff was the inaugural convenor of the Austrroads Registration and Licensing group nearly twenty years ago and since that time has served on the committee, chaired sub committees and project managed numerous projects to conclusion. Geoff has been the driving force behind a number of initiatives developed by the program area and has provided support and advice to all the program managers who followed after him.

Achievement Awards will go to:

Alan Colegate (Main Roads WA)
John Dudgeon (Main Roads Queensland)
Bill Frith (MoT NZ)
Russell Ingham (Main Roads Queensland)
Ed McGeehan (VicRoads)
Kathy Martin (Main Roads WA)
Grant Strachan (MoT NZ)
Jock Scanlon (Main Roads WA)
Vince Taranto (RTA NSW)

Austrroads International Activities

Council received reports on World Road Association matters including the Council meeting in Madrid in November 2006, arrangements for the World Road Congress in Paris in 2007 and REAAA matters. A report was also considered on the participation of Main Roads Queensland in a delegation to China led by the Australian Road Forum.

Future meetings

The next Austrroads Council meetings will be in Sydney on 21 June and then in Melbourne in October 2007.

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Appendix A

ASSETS

Project Title	Status
Improved Cost Allocation Rules by Road Type (including unsealed Roads) (NTC)	Continuing
Examine the Technical and Data Requirements of Alternatives to PAYGO (NTC)	Continuing
Road Use Data – Harmonisation of Collection, Reporting and Access	Continuing
Establishing a New National Pavement Maintenance Database (NTC)	Continuing
Long-Term Performance Monitoring to Develop Consistent Performance Models	Continuing
Economic Impacts of Heavy Mass Limit Vehicles	Continuing
Service Life of Pavements	Continuing
Management of Road Surface Characteristics	Continuing
Measuring Heavy Vehicle Loads Dynamically	Continuing
Asset Management National Performance Indicators	New
Management of Skid Resistance	New
Optimal Axle Mass Limits (NTC)	New
Development of Guide to Asset Management	
Part 3 – Asset Strategies	Continuing
Part 4 – Program Development and Implementation	Continuing
Part 5 – Pavement Performance	Continuing
Part 6 – Bridge Performance	Continuing
Part 2 – Stakeholder / Community Requirements	New
Part 7 – Road Related Assets Performance	New
Part 8 – Asset Valuation and Audit	New

CAPABILITY

Project Title	Status
Professional Development – post graduate development requirements	Continuing

FREIGHT

Project Title	Status
Demand for B-Triple and Quad-axle B-Double Network De-coupling Points	New
Local Government and the Future Freight Task	New
Driver Specific Monitoring Devices - compliance solutions	New
Compliance & Enforcement – technology opportunities	New
Feasibility Study – Freight Data and Business Systems	New
Freight Task – Industry Stakeholder Assessment	New

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NETWORK

Project Title	Status
Traveller Information – benefits to users	Continuing
Optimising Freeway Traffic Flow Under Congested Conditions	Continuing
Austroads Microsimulation Standards	Continuing
Estimating Road Network Congestion and Associated Costs	New
Operational Impacts of Alternative Vehicles	New
Network Operations Planning Framework	New
Freeway Design Parameters for Fully Managed Operations	New
Implementation of Network National Performance Indicators	New
Traffic Signal Controllers – future directions	New
Best Practice for Variable Speed Limits	New
<i>Development of Guide to Traffic Management</i>	
Part 4 – Network Management	Continuing
Part 8 – Local Area Traffic Management	Continuing
Part 9 – Traffic Operations	Continuing
Part 12 – Traffic Impacts of Developments	Continuing
Part 3 – Traffic Analysis	New
Part 7 – Traffic Management in Activity Centres	New
Part 10 – Traffic Control and Communication Devices	New
Part 13 – Road Environment Safety	New

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Project Title	Status
NEVDIS	Continuing
Driver Licence Exchange of Information Systems	Continuing
Security & Identity Management Driver Licence	Continuing
Removing Engine Numbers as Vehicle Identifiers	New
National Recognition of Road Worthiness Procedures	New

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SAFETY

Project Title	Status
A Road Safety Engineering Tool Kit	Continuing
Road Safety Audit Toolkit – Further Development	Continuing
Road Safety Audit Toolkit – Site Maintenance	Continuing
Balance Between Harm Reduction and Mobility in Setting Speed Limits – Stage 3	Continuing
Older Driver Model Assessment Program – Phase 4	Continuing
Australasian Road Safety Handbook – Volume 5	Continuing
Development of Performance Measures that Reflect the Contribution of Road Engineering to Road Safety	Continuing
Road Safety in Rural and Remote Areas – Heavy Vehicle Safety	Continuing
Consideration of Component Costs in Transport Projects to Ensure the Appropriate Valuing of Safety Effects	New
Traffic Management and Infrastructure: Lessons from In-depth Crash Investigation	New
Content and Benefits of Effective Supervised Driving Programs	New
Reducing Trauma Associated with Non-wearing of Seatbelts in Australia: Where to Next?	New
Development of Best Practice Model for Recidivist Speeding Offenders	New
Road Safety Risk Assessment – Stage 6	New
Evaluation of the Safety Impact of Centre-of-the-road Wire Rope Barrier on Undivided Rural Roads	New
Review of ITS and VMS for Safety in Rural and Remote Areas	New
Scoping Study to Assess Road Safety Engineering Measures to Address Fatigue	New
Impact on Speed and Safety Benefits of LATM Treatments	New
<i>Development of Guide to Road Safety</i>	
Part 4 – Local Government and Community Road Safety	New
Part 6 – Road Safety Audit	New
Part 8 – Treatment of Crash Locations	New

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TECHNOLOGY

Project Title	Status
Better Basis for Bases: Optimum Use of Granular Bases	Continuing
Materials Innovation Management System	Continuing
Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on Pavement Performance	Continuing
Austroads Guides – Glossary of Terms	Continuing
PBS Bridge Loading Package – scoping project (NTC)	New
Develop ESA (Equivalent Standard Axles) Relationships for all Heavy Vehicle Classes Using Both an Average and a Distribution Approach Methodology (NTC)	New
Investigate Cost Allocation Relationships for Bridges in Relation to Heavy Vehicles (NTC)	New
Maintaining the Rural Road Network	New
Asphalt Properties and Mix Design Procedures	New
Optimising Binder Performance	New
Surface Characteristics to Meet Road User Needs	New
Management of Scarce and Quality Resources	New
Strategic Review of Pavement Design Practice	New
Cost-effective Structural Treatments for Rural Highways	New
Updating Austroads RUE Unit Values and Related Methodologies	New
Development of Guide to Bridge Technology	
Part 2 – Introduction to Bridge Technology	Continuing
Part 4 – Materials and Components Specification and Quality Assurance	Continuing
Part 5 – Design notes	Continuing
Part 6 – Bridge Construction	Continuing
Part 7 – Management of Existing Bridges	Continuing
Development of Guide to Pavement Technology	
Part 2 – Pavement Structural Design	Continuing
Part 3 – Pavement Surfacing	Continuing
Part 4A – Granular Base and Sub Base Materials	Continuing
Part 4C – Materials for Concrete Road Pavements	Continuing
Part 4F – Bituminous Binders	Continuing
Part 6 – Unsealed Pavements	Continuing
Part 7 – Pavement Maintenance	Continuing
Part 9 – Pavement Work Practices	Continuing
Part 4E – Recycled Materials	New
Part 4G – Geotextiles and Geogrids	New
Part 4I – In Situ Materials	New
Part 4J – Aggregates/Source Rock	New
Part 4K – Seals	New
Part 4L – Stabilising Binders	New

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<i>Development of Guide to Project Delivery</i>	
Part 4 – Direct Management of Construction	Continuing
<i>Development of Guide to Road Design</i>	
Part 3 – Geometric Design	Continuing
Part 4 – Intersections and Crossings	Continuing
Part 5 – Drainage Design	Continuing
Part 6 – Roadside Design	Continuing
Part 7 – Geotechnical Design	Continuing
Part 8 – Design Process and Documentation	Continuing
<i>Development of Guide to Transport Planning</i>	
Transport Planning	Continuing

CORPORATE

Project Title	Status
Improving Local Road Expenditure Data Provision (NTC)	Continuing