

Austrroads Council Meeting No. 38
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory
23 March 2006

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austrroads Council met in Canberra, ACT on 23 March 2006. The meeting was chaired by the Austrroads Chairman Menno Henneveld. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

The chief purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the 2005-06 Austrroads work program and to give preliminary consideration to work program for 2006-07.

Development of new strategic plan

The current strategic plan concludes in June 2007. The Council considered the process for the development of a new strategic plan to cover the period from July 2007 to June 2010. The agreed process will involve discussions with stakeholders in the next few months to identify possible emerging issues and assess priorities. There will be further discussion of the outcome of this process at the June Council meeting with program managers then being tasked to determine broad streams for future work within the agreed priorities. The objective is to have a final draft of the new plan for the March 2007 Council meeting.

Technical research through ARRB

The Council considered a progress report on the results of technical research being undertaken by ARRB Research. Council agreed that there were substantial potential benefits for road authorities from applying the outcomes from the technical research being undertaken. It requested that ARRB work with member organisations to develop tailored presentations for the staff of member organisations to demonstrate the potential benefits.

Review of Austrroads rules

The rules of Austrroads Incorporated have been in place since 1991 and were last amended in 1994. A review has been undertaken of the rules to ensure that they meet current legislation and operational requirements. Several amendments were agreed to update the rules. These will be submitted for formal adoption at a special general meeting to be held in conjunction with the next Council meeting.

Intelligent Access

Austrroads will invite Transport Certification Australia to provide regular reports to Austrroads on its operation and the implementation of intelligent access for heavy vehicles.

Local Government partnership agreement

A partnership agreement between Austrroads, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) was also endorsed by Council. The agreement will continue the work of the current agreement which concludes in June 2006. The new agreement will be for three years and commits the three organisations to working together where mutually beneficial.

COMMUNIQUÉ

COAG transport reforms

In February the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a package of reforms relating to transport as well as other areas. DOTARS made a presentation to Council on the implications of the COAG decisions for transport agencies and road authorities. The National Transport Commission also submitted a number of proposals relating to the work to be undertaken as a result of the COAG decisions. These matters were considered by Council and further development of the proposals will be undertaken and where appropriate additional projects incorporated in the work program for 2006-07.

Young Professional study tour presentation

In 2005 the inaugural Austroads Young Professional study tour was undertaken. A group of seven young professionals from different member organisations visited several European countries to study traffic management. Three members of the study group made a presentation to Council on their findings.

2005–06 work program

At its July 2005 meeting the Council approved a work program of projects for 2005-06. This included projects that commenced in previous years but continued into 2005-06 and projects which commenced in this financial year. At the November meeting Council agreed to eight additional projects to commence in 2005-06 as well as some variations to previously approved projects. To date 23 projects have been completed in the 2005-06 financial year.

The table below provides a summary of projects for 2005-06 at February 2006.

Program	Active	Completed	Total
Assets	21	1	22
Capability	4		4
Freight	10	5	15
Network	10	1	11
R&L	4	5	9
Safety	13	6	19
Technology	27	3	30
Corporate	9	2	11
Total	98	23	121

Council commended program managers and project managers for the progress that had been made with the current projects as well as overdue projects.

Preliminary consideration of the 2006–07 work program

The Council gave preliminary consideration to projects for 2006-07. Subject to final approval at the next Council meeting, continuing and new projects for 2006-07 were approved. These are shown in Appendix A.

COMMUNIQUÉ

Austroads International Activities

Council agreed out-of-session to incorporate the consideration of international matters in the Council meeting rather than convene the International Committee. There will still be an AGM of the Austroads International Committee (PIARC) held in conjunction with the Austroads AGM. Council considered a consolidated report on international activities and agreed on the following:

- The secondment of an Austroads person to the PIARC general secretariat be continued on an ongoing basis.
- A meeting be convened of Australian representatives on PIARC technical committees in May.
- Austroads sponsor the road safety prize in the PIARC prizes competition being conducted in the lead up to the Paris Congress.
- Changes to New Zealand corresponding membership on PIARC technical committees.
- A proposal is to be developed for a study exchange to Canada for a small Australasian team. This will be done in conjunction with the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC). The exchange may include participation in the TAC conference in September.

Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics.

Future meetings

The next Austroads Council meetings will be:

- 22 June 2006 in Darwin
- 20 October 2006, Adelaide.

COMMUNIQUÉ

Appendix A

ASSETS

Project Title	Status
Long-Term Performance Monitoring to Develop Consistent Performance Models	Continuing
Establish Network Performance Profiles, Identify Under-Performing Pavements and Establish Contributory Causes	Continuing
Management of Skid Resistance	Continuing
Communicating Strategic Decisions to Stakeholders	Continuing
Service Life of Pavements	Continuing
Management of Road Surface Characteristics	Continuing
Salinity Impacts on Pavement Life	Continuing
Measuring Heavy Vehicle Loads Dynamically	New
Review and Improvement to Telecommunications in Road Reserves Guidelines	New
Economic Impacts of Heavy Mass Limit Vehicles	New
Probability Models for Project Level Decision Making	New
<i>Development of Guide to Asset Management</i>	
Stakeholder/Community Requirements Part 2	Continuing
Asset Strategies Part 3	Continuing
Program Development and Implementation Part 4	Continuing
Pavement Performance Part 5	Continuing
Pavement Inventory Part 5A	Continuing
Bridge Performance Part 6	Continuing

CAPABILITY

Project Title	Status
Best Practice Capability Management	Continuing
Post Graduate Professional Development for Road Engineering	Continuing
National Skills Marketing Plan	Continuing
Australia and New Zealand Roads Workforce Capability Analysis 2006 – 2016	Continuing
Professional Development – Post Graduate Development Requirements	New
Development of National Skills Marketing Plan and Materials	New

COMMUNIQUÉ

FREIGHT

Project Title	Status
Community Attitudes to Road Freight Vehicles – Behavioural Research	Continuing
Vehicle Environmental Standards for Night Time Operations	Continuing
Guidelines for Identifying, Assessing and Managing the Environmental Impacts Arising from Trucks Using Metropolitan Road Links	Continuing
ITS Technologies for Metropolitan Freight Vehicle Operations	Continuing
Heavy Vehicle Access Management Workshop	Continuing
Improving the Transparency of Regulatory (Heavy Vehicle Access) Decision Making	Continuing
Freight Routes in Rural and Urban Areas (Scoping Study)	New
Managing High Wide Loads	New

NETWORK

Project Title	Status
Improving Incident Management	Continuing
Understanding how Operational Changes Impact Network Performance	Continuing
Guidelines for Evaluation of Travel Demand Management Measures	Continuing
Improving Levels of Service to Specific Users Including Freight, Public Transport and Emergency Vehicles	Continuing
Performance Based Standards Administrative Guidelines	Continuing
Traveller Information – Benefits to Users	New
Optimising Freeway Traffic Flow Under Congested Conditions	New
Securing Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) Spectrum for ITS Applications	New
National Performance Indicators (Projects to be Determined)	New
Austrroads Microsimulation Standards	New

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Project Title	Status
NEVDIS	Continuing
Uniform Set of National Vehicle Entry Standards	Continuing
Security & Identity Management Driver Licence	Continuing
NEVDIS Information Strategy Plan 2008-2013	New
Use and Application of Motor Vehicle Registration Labels	New
Driver Licence Exchange of Information Systems	New
Enhancing the National Written Off Vehicle Register	New
National Performance Indicators – Delivery of Registration and Licensing Services	New

COMMUNIQUÉ

SAFETY

Project Title	Status
Safer Vehicle Purchases: Developing cost/benefit estimates for fleet managers and others	Continuing
Review of Safety Practices Used by Commercial Vehicle Purchasers	Continuing
A Road Safety Engineering Tool Kit	Continuing
Older Driver Model Assessment Program: Phase 3 (Implementation and evaluation of improved screening procedures for assessing older drivers' performance levels)	Continuing
Safety Benefits of Improving the Interaction between Heavy Vehicles and the Roads System	Continuing
Balance Between Harm Reduction and Mobility in Setting Speed Limits – Stage 3	New
Older Driver Model Assessment Program – Phase 4	New
The Crash and Offence Experience on Newly Licensed Young Drivers Over Time Related to Characteristics of Those Drivers	New
Road Safety Audit Toolkit – Further Development	New
Road Safety Audit Toolkit – Site Maintenance	New
Development of Performance Measures that Reflect the Contribution of Road Engineering to Road Safety	New
Road Safety in Rural and Remote Areas – Heavy Vehicle Safety	New
Road Safety Risk Assessment – Stage 5	New
Future Strategic Road Safety Engineering Research	New
<i>Development of Guide to Road Safety</i>	
Updating Australasian Road Safety Handbook	Continuing
Guide to Road Safety - Parts 2, 4, 6 and 11	Continuing
Australasian Road Safety Handbook – Volume 5	New

COMMUNIQUÉ

TECHNOLOGY

Project Title	Status
Influence of Vertical Loading on the Performance of Unbound and Cemented Materials	Continuing
Quantifying the Stresses at the Tyre/Surface Interface and the Resulting Performance Impacts	Continuing
Improved Sprayed Sealing Operations – procedures and guidelines	Continuing
Maximising the Benefits from Polymer Modified Binders	Continuing
Using Overseas Bitumen	Continuing
Delivering Better Quality Asphalt	Continuing
Materials Innovation Management System	Continuing
Better Basis for Bases: Optimum Use of Granular Bases	Continuing
Influence of Multiple Axle Loads on Pavement Performance	New
Innovative Binder Delivery Systems (pilot study)	New
Development of Guides	
Road Design Parts 4, 5 and 7	Continuing
Project Delivery Parts 1 and 3	Continuing
Bridge Technology Parts 2, 4 and 5	Continuing
Transport Planning Parts 1 and 3	Continuing
Project Evaluation (update of units for use in calculating road user effects)	Continuing
Pavement Technology – Development and Management of Austroads Test Methods	Continuing
Traffic Management Parts 4, 8, 9 and 12	Continuing
Pavement Technology Parts 4a, 4b, 4g, 8 and 9	Continuing
Traffic Management – Parts 1, 2 and 11. Scoping Parts 3, 7, 10 and 13	New
Road Design – Parts 3, 6 and 8	New
Project Delivery – Parts 4 and 5	New
Bridge Technology – Parts 6 and 7	New
Transport Planning Part 2	New
Pavement Technology – Parts 3, 4d, 6 and 7	New
Austroads Guides – Glossary of Terms	New