

Austroads Council Meeting No. 40

Adelaide, South Australia

20 October 2006

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austroads Council met in Adelaide on 20 October 2006. The meeting was chaired by the Austroads Chairman Menno Henneveld. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

Assessment of research requirements of the Australian road industry

The meeting was preceded by a workshop on 19 October attended by Council members which considered a preliminary draft report on the assessment of the research requirements of the Australian road industry. The workshop received a presentation from the consultants on the work undertaken so far. There was extensive discussion of the issues emerging. A final report will be prepared by December.

Initial draft of Austroads strategic plan 2007–12

The Council considered the initial draft of a new strategic plan for Austroads. The current plan concludes at the end of June 2007 and the new plan will commence in July 2007 and cover the five years to June 2012. The initial draft of the 2007–2012 strategic plan was prepared following a workshop session held in conjunction with the previous Council meeting.

The strategic priorities are asset management, capability, freight, network, registration and licensing, road safety and technology.

Objectives for each priority have been developed with input from jurisdictions through task forces and review panels. A more detailed indication of the work to be undertaken over the next five years has also been prepared. The Council broadly endorsed the draft subject to some amendments. The objectives and more detailed indication of the proposed work will be further developed, and aligned between program areas. This is to be completed by program managers and the national office before the end of the year. Incoming program managers will also have an opportunity to have some input to a revised draft being considered by the Council meeting in March 2007.

New program arrangements

In conjunction with the development of the new strategic plan the Council has determined new program arrangements for the implementation of the plan. There will be six programs, each aligned to one of the strategic priorities. The programs and the organisation with the program management responsibility are as follows:

Program	Responsible organisation
Assets	VicRoads
Freight	RTA NSW
Network	MR WA
Registration and licensing	RTA NSW
Safety	DTEI SA
Technology	DMR Qld

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The new program arrangements will come into operation from 1 January 2007. It is expected that the responsible organisations will nominate their program managers within the next few weeks. The new program managers will be responsible for the delivery of the current work program and the development of projects for the 2007-08 work program for consideration at the March 2007 meeting. There will be a transition period in the lead up to the next Council meeting in which the incoming and the outgoing program managers will work together to ensure a smooth hand over of projects and administrative arrangements.

Although capability continues to be a strategic priority, there will not be a capability program. There will continue to be a Capability task force which will meet regularly and report to the Council. Peter Mitchem, currently the acting Deputy Chief Executive, VicRoads will chair the Capability task force.

It is proposed the current task forces and review panels will continue. Their terms of reference will be reviewed by program managers and the national office and submitted to the March meeting for confirmation. Member organisations will be invited to review their representatives on these groups following the March meeting.

ATC and SCOT meetings

The Council considered an update on projects being undertaken for SCOT and ATC, as well as the outcomes of the ATC meeting held on 13 October. The communiqué from the ATC meeting is available at <http://www.atcouncil.gov.au/communique/atc24.aspx>

Productivity Commission report

Barry Moore from NTC and John Dudgeon, the Freight program manager, made presentations on the recently released discussion draft report, Road and Rail Freight Infrastructure Pricing, and its implications for road agencies and Austrroads. The report is available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/freight/draftreport/index.html>

CPEE

Ray Farrelly the Executive Director of the Australian Asphalt Pavement Association, made a presentation on the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE) and the need for road agency support. Council have requested the development of a support package for consideration at the next meeting.

Agreement with NTC

Council approved an agreement between Austrroads and the National Transport Commission (NTC). The agreement covers the relationship between the two organisations. It identifies three aspects of the relationship; research and implementation which are shared responsibilities and policy development which is seen as being mainly the responsibility of NTC.

Agreement with ITS Australia

Council also approved an agreement between Austrroads and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Australia. Its main focus is on mutual support for activities and cooperation between the two organisations. It also formalises Austrroads as an avenue for presenting proposals and recommendations on ITS road transport matters from ITS Australia to SCOT and ATC.

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2005-06 work program

Council considered a report on the 2005-06 work program and the status of projects as at 30 June 2006.

Program	Active	Completed/cancelled	Total
Assets	17	5	19
Capability	4		4
Freight	8	7	15
Network	8	4	12
R&L	4	7	11
Safety	12	7	19
Technology	20	10	30
Corporate	8	3	11
Total	81	43	124

Progress on the 2006-07 work program

At the June meeting, Council approved projects for 2006-07 with a total budget of approximately \$7.8 million. There are a total of 125 projects for 2006-07; comprised of 42 new projects, 57 continuing projects and 26 projects carried over from 2005-06. Project status as at 30 September was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	21	3	24
Capability	5	2	5
Freight	12		12
Network	10		12
R&L	9		9
Safety	23		23
Technology	28	1	29
Corporate	10	1	11
Total	118	7	125

Technical research

The technical research program commenced in July 2004, in the four key areas of bituminous surfacings, pavement structures, asset management and road safety engineering. An annual report of the program for 2005-06 had been distributed to Council members, observers and program managers for discussion at the Council meeting. Mary Lydon from ARRB made a presentation on directions for the 2006-07 technical research program and provided an update on the technical research roadshow being offered to member authorities.

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Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

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

Austrroads AGM

The meeting also incorporated the Annual General Meeting of Austrroads Incorporated. The AGM formally adopted the annual report and financial statements. The 2005-06 annual report is available from the Austrroads website at http://www.austrroads.com.au/annual_report.html

Austrroads International Activities

Council received reports on World Road Association matters including the arrangements for the World Road Congress in Paris in 2007, the judging of the World Road Association essay competition, progress reports on the work of technical committees and the selection of a person to undertake a secondment with the World Road Association secretariat.

Young Professionals study tour

Gary Norwell from Main Roads WA, the Assets program manager and leader of the study tour to Canada and the USA made a presentation on the main findings from the study tour, which was undertaken in September 2006 to look at asset management experiences in several Canadian provinces and the USA. The group also attended several sessions of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) annual conference. A full report of the study tour is being prepared and will be circulated to member organisations.

Future meetings

The next Austrroads Council meetings will be in Hobart on 22 March and Sydney on 21 June 2007.