

## Austroads Council meeting

The Austroads Council met in Hobart on 22 March 2007. Highlights of the meeting were:

### Strategic plan

A new strategic plan for Austroads was endorsed by the Council. The new plan will commence in July 2007, at the conclusion of the current plan, and cover the five year period until June 2012. The strategic priorities are asset management, capability, freight, network, registration and licensing, road safety, and technology. The new strategic plan is available to download from the [Austroads 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, awareness and utilisation of Austroads outputs to staff of road agencies, contractors, consultants and educational institutions. The primary mechanism for the general promotion of Austroads will be through existing networks. Identifying key people in member, observer and industry organisations will be the basis of this approach. These networks can then utilise their own communication mechanisms to facilitate the promotion of Austroads.

### Research requirements of the Australian road industry

In 2006 Austroads engaged consultants to prepare a report on the research requirements of the Australian road industry. The Austroads Council considered that the report had been useful to establish the current situation in relation to road research in Australia.

A small working group has now been established with representation from ARRB and Austroads member organisations to formulate recommendations for Council on:

- 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 Austroads 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.

### 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 road authority staff to undertake courses conducted by CPEE. More information about CPEE and its courses is [available here](#).

### 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](#). A report from the National Transport Commission (NTC) and the work being done on performance based standards for heavy vehicles was also considered.

## **Austrroads awards**

Each year Austrroads awards people who have made a valuable contribution to the organisation. The awards are important because the people doing work for Austrroads are usually contributing to Austrroads in addition to their regular workload. The following people will receive Austrroads awards:

### Outstanding Service Award

- Gray Norwell - Main Roads WA
- Geoff Shanks - VicRoads

### Achievement Award

- Alan Colegate - Main Roads WA
- John Dudgeon - Main Roads Queensland
- Bill Frith - Ministry of Transport New Zealand
- Russell Ingham - Main Roads Queensland
- Ed McGeehan - VicRoads
- Kathy Martin - Main Roads WA
- Grant Strachan - Ministry of Transport New Zealand
- Jock Scanlon - Main Roads WA
- Vince Taranto - Roads and Traffic Authority NSW

## **Austrroads work program 2007-08**

Council gave preliminary consideration to the projects proposed for funding in 2007-08. Subject to final approval at the next Council meeting, continuing and new projects for 2007-08 were endorsed. Austrroads project categories include assets, capability, freight, network, registration and licensing, safety, and technology.

## **2007 World Road Congress**

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The next World Road Association (PIARC) World Road Congress will be held in Paris, France, from 17 until 21 September 2007. Thousands of delegates from around the world are expected to attend. The Congress will provide a forum for international road industry professionals in every facet of the development, management and operation of roads and road transport. It provides an outstanding opportunity to meet new people, exchange knowledge and experience and discuss solutions. Austrroads is coordinating the Australian and New Zealand involvement in the Paris Congress. It is anticipated that a significant Australasian delegation will attend, with up to 100 delegates.

Austrroads is promoting Australasian participation and coordinating the delegation. A number of events and activities are being arranged specifically for the Australasian delegates, including a welcome reception and possibly a post Congress study tour. If you are planning to attend the Congress, as a delegate or exhibitor, you should advise the Austrroads national office so you can be included in the arrangements for the Australasian delegation. Please contact [austrroads@austrroads.com.au](mailto:austrroads@austrroads.com.au) and an information package will be sent to you. A copy of the information package is also available online at [www.austrroads.com.au](http://www.austrroads.com.au) Early bird registration is available for a reduced price until 30 June 2007.

## **World Road Association (PIARC) Technical Committees**

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This is a new section of the Austrroads newsletter. It will highlight some of the work of selected World Road Association technical committees. Technical Committees produce reports based on best practice and recommendations in their respective fields to assist decision makers, road engineers and research engineers. They consist of distinguished engineers and experts appointed by World Road Association member countries. There are four strategic themes based around governance, outputs, operations and inputs. Under these strategic themes 18 Technical Committees work on various subjects in the road and road transport field.

### **Sustainable Development and Road Transport Technical Committee**

World Road Association (PIARC) technical committee, Sustainable Development and Road Transport, considers emerging issues related to ensuring transport networks support sustainable development in both developed and developing countries. As this is a very wide area, the Committee has focused on key points.

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The areas of work most relevant to Austroads members are affordable environmental mitigation, climate change adaptation strategies, tools to assess the sustainability of transport projects and how best to assess the social impacts of transport projects.

Work to date indicates that a common theme underpinning all of these issues is the need to consider environmental and social issues much earlier in transport planning, development and funding, and in far more detail than is currently common practice. Environmental and social issues are often the ones that result in cost increases and scope changes, with consequent delays and frustrations, yet earlier and fuller consideration of these issues is within the grasp of all agencies in developed countries. Case studies analysed by the Committee show that there is still a widespread perception that a 'once over lightly' approach in the programming and planning phase is sufficient, whereas a well-managed comprehensive approach at the outset significantly reduces project risk and uncertainty and can enhance support for plans and projects.

The Committee will deliver presentations on these issues at the World Road Congress in September 2007.

### **Road Pavement Technical Committee**

The role of the Road Pavement committee is to provide a forum for exchange of knowledge on road pavements. It does this by researching, writing reports, papers and articles, conducting workshops in developed countries, seminars in developing countries and presentations at conferences.

The committee is close to completing three reports covering:

- A review of successful long life pavements
- Ways to minimise the impact of road works on adjacent areas and road users
- Overcoming the obstacles to pavement recycling.

Each of these reports has built on information gathered by a survey of road authorities and industry representatives from around the world. The committee has also conducted a successful seminar on Urban Pavements in Poland and has prepared a workshop for presentation in Cuba on Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation for delivery in April 2007 in Havana.

During the last meeting German members of the committee made a presentation on a new technique for gritting new asphalt. This involves an asphalt paver modified to distribute the grit directly on to the hot asphalt mat. The development of this technology is in response to the German requirement to grit all new asphalt to ensure adequate early life skid resistance. The trial reported in this presentation included a range of grit types and sizes, applied using different methods. The effectiveness of these techniques in providing adequate early life skid resistance was assessed using SCRIM (Sideways force Co-efficient Routine Investigation Machine). A similar study, conducted by SETRA in France, was reported at an earlier meeting in which very fine grit was successfully used on open graded asphalt with little reduction in permeability.

For more information about the work of the committee or the presentation please contact:  
[allan.g.bell@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:allan.g.bell@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

### **New Austroads publications**

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The following three technical reports have been released and are available from the [Austroads publications website](#):

#### **Case Study and Test Method Review on Moisture Damage (AP-T76/07)**

A study and test method review on moisture damage was conducted as part of an Austroads project to improve the field performance of asphalt. The report presents an extensive literature review on case studies of moisture damage in pavements and moisture sensitivity testing methods available worldwide. It includes summaries of interviews with Australian practitioners. The case studies generally agree on the importance of prevention of moisture ingress, and the necessity of a suitable moisture sensitivity test during the mix design stage.

#### **Service Life of Pavements: Context, Review and Definition of Terms (AP-T77/07)**

The report is intended to provide an understanding of 'remaining service life' (RSL) as a concept and definitions of key terms such as 'design life', 'service life', 'remaining service life', 'designated level of service', and 'threshold distress values'. These are described in the context where RSL is restricted to the next intervention by

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rehabilitation or replacement. The estimation of RSL was noted not to be a precise process, but it could be improved by understanding the relevant pavement distresses beyond which the pavement exceeds its designated level of service and rigorous observation of the deterioration of various road types.

### **Managing the Impacts of Rising Watertables and Salinity on Remaining Pavement Life - Report of 2005/2006 Activities (AP-T78/07)**

The report comprises a technical review and update on new knowledge about salinity impacts and pavements. A review of recent literature and research outputs has indicated that there are knowledge gaps in the area of how salinity affects pavements and these are discussed in the report. Climate assessment and watertable trends throughout Australia are also discussed. There has been a decade of drier than average years throughout many parts of south-eastern Australia and south-west Western Australia, resulting in a prolonged soil moisture deficit. A reduction in winter/spring rainfall has meant a lowering of the watertable in many salt-affected catchments.

### **Australian community attitudes to road safety**

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The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has released a report that explores community attitudes to road safety. Issues examined by the report include perceived causes of road crashes, exposure and attitudes to random breath testing, attitudes to speed, perceptions of police enforcement, mobile phone use while driving, reported usage of seat belts, involvement in road crashes, and experience of fatigue while driving.

A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

### **National guidelines for transport system management in Australia**

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The Australian Transport Council has released the second edition of its National Guidelines for Transport System Management in Australia. The guidelines are designed to support transport decision making and serve as a national standard for planning and developing transport systems. The guidelines, published as a series of five documents, cover the framework for undertaking strategic transport planning and development, information on the appraisal of initiatives, analytical approaches for urban transport proposals, and background material.

For more information, or to obtain a copy of the report, visit the [Australian Transport Council website](#).

### **Human error and road transport: A framework for an error tolerant road transport system**

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The Monash University Accident Research Centre has released two reports that explore error tolerant intersections in Victoria and an error tolerant road transport system in Australia. Phase one, '[Literature Review](#)' includes a review of human error related research conducted in the road transport domain and a review of contemporary error management approaches. Phase two, '[A Framework for an Error Tolerant Road Transport System](#)' includes methods for the collection and analysis of human error related data within the Australian road transport system, and also a number of error management approaches and strategies that could potentially be used to reduce or manage road user error and the conditions that lead to it.

### **Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels**

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The Australian Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport has released a report that explores Australia's future oil supply and alternative transport fuels. The report examines projections of oil production and demand in Australia and globally, technological developments and environmental and economic costs associated with potential of new sources of oil and alternative transport fuels, the economic and social impact in Australia from continuing rises in the price of transport fuel, and options for reducing Australia's transport fuel demands.

A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

### **Performance indicators of enforced driver behaviour in South Australia**

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The Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide has released a report that explores performance indicators for selected enforced driver behaviour such as drunk driving, speeding and restraint use in South Australia in the calendar year 2003.

For each of the driver behaviours, information was collected on levels of police enforcement, levels of involvement of specific driver behaviour in fatal and serious injury crashes, and the extent of any publicity and advertising during the year of the study. Information available from on-road surveys was also examined.

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The report found that providing a consistent framework to collect and evaluate information will help to establish consistent performance indicators for enforcement purposes, leading to better enforcement operations and related publicity, and consequently a further reduction in trauma on the road network.

A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

## **Intelligent transport systems and motorcycle safety**

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The Monash University Accident Research Centre has released a report that explores existing and emerging intelligent transport systems (ITS) that have the potential to enhance motorcycle rider safety. A review of the literature revealed that very few commercially available ITS currently exist specifically for motorcycles, although emerging technologies were identified. There are existing technologies for other vehicles that have the potential to address motorcycle safety issues and these are described in the report. Recommendations are made for further research and for stimulating the early development of ITS which have the potential to enhance safety and are acceptable to motorcycle riders.

A copy of the report is [available here](#) in PDF format.

## **Calendar of forthcoming events**

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### **ARRB knowledge transfer workshops in 2007**

ARRB develops and delivers high level training workshops and explanatory seminars using internal technical experts, specialist consultants and road authority staff, many of which are based on Austroads publications.

In 2007 ARRB will be running a series of workshops throughout Australia and New Zealand covering subjects such as intersections at grade, roundabouts, road network management, traffic engineering practice, community road safety and bridge inspections.

For detailed information about times, dates and locations visit the [ARRB website](#).

### **Australian Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics Transport Colloquium**

13 - 14 June 2007, Canberra

The theme of the colloquium is 'Australia Transport – Policy Challenges for Future Growth'. It aims to foster informed discussion and debate on key issues that are fundamental to Australian transport and its role in the economy and wider society. It provides a forum for government and business leaders, policy advisers, consultants and researchers to discuss the issues for future policy. The program will include topics such as; transport and Australian economic growth; harmonisation and productivity in freight transport; capital city ports; reducing road casualties; and climate change. More information is available from: [btre.colloquim@dotars.gov.au](mailto:btre.colloquim@dotars.gov.au)

### **National Local Roads and Transport Congress**

8 - 10 July 2007, Newcastle

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Local Roads and Transport Congress brings together over 400 elected council members, council officers responsible for roads and transport portfolios, state and federal government senior executives and transport industry representatives from across Australia to discuss essential information on a wide range of local roads issues, including policy, road use, maintenance and funding. The Congress is the main annual local government transport forum and plays a central role in bringing local government together to help shape and define the case for better funding and management of the nation's local road network. More information is available from: [www.alga.asn.au/policy/transport/congress](http://www.alga.asn.au/policy/transport/congress)

### **Transport – The Next 50 Years**

25 - 27 July 2007, Christchurch, New Zealand

The theme of this conference will cover transport in the wider context as opposed to focusing only on land transport and also contains a strategic and long-term focus. There will be plenary sessions for keynote speakers and three or four concurrent streams dealing with infrastructure funding, the future of transport, the land use planning-transport nexus, urban form, freight issues, public transport, modal shift and transport related social issues. More information is available from: [www.transport07.co.nz](http://www.transport07.co.nz)

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## **Queensland Department of Main Roads Technology Forum**

7 - 9 August 2007, Brisbane

The theme of the Queensland Main Roads Technology Forum is 'Delivery, Innovation and Governance'. The Technology Forum provides a unique opportunity to showcase the development of strategic initiatives and the use of contemporary innovation and technology. Delegates will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of available practices which provide flexibility while maintaining consistency across processes. For more information please contact: [craig.l.moss@mainroads.qld.gov.au](mailto:craig.l.moss@mainroads.qld.gov.au)

## **International Public Works Conference**

26 - 30 August 2007, Cairns

The conference is organised by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA). The program will aim to provide maximum opportunities for professional development and learning while incorporating interaction and networking with other delegates. A day will be dedicated to providing technical tours around the region. More information is available from: [www.ipwea.org.au/events](http://www.ipwea.org.au/events)

## **23<sup>rd</sup> World Road Congress**

17-21 September 2007, Palais des Congrès, Paris, France

The 23<sup>rd</sup> World Road Congress will provide a forum for professionals from all over the world in every facet of the development, management and operation of roads and road transport. The program will include technical sessions, exhibitions, special sessions, technical visits and social events where professionals from around the world will be on-hand to discuss and display solutions to road issues. More information is available from: [www.piarc.org](http://www.piarc.org)

Austrroads is coordinating the attendance of an Australasian delegation to the World Road Congress. If you are interested in participating please contact Murray Kidnie at Austrroads [mkidnie@austrroads.com.au](mailto:mkidnie@austrroads.com.au)

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The Austrroads newsletter is developed and distributed bi-monthly.

Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome and should be emailed to the Communications Manager David Armstrong at [darmstrong@austrroads.com.au](mailto:darmstrong@austrroads.com.au)

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