



[Austroads Council meeting](#)

The Austroads Council met in Auckland on 27 March 2008. The main topic of discussion was preliminary consideration of the 2008-09 work program. The project proposals were supported by Council with the total work program expenditure for 2008-09 expected to be just over \$9m. A review was also undertaken of progress with current projects.

New Australian Transport Council arrangements were considered, arising from the meeting of Australian transport ministers in February. The transport ministers decided to adopt a new approach to the development of national transport policy, with individual ministers responsible for developing different aspects of the policy. Working groups have been established by jurisdictions for each of these priority areas. There is a number of Austroads projects, both current and proposed, which could provide valuable input into the work of these groups. The main Austroads work will be identified and circulated to members for input through their agency. Austroads will also provide input to the work being undertaken by Tasmania on strategic research and technology.

A communiqué containing details of the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting is available for download from the [Austroads website](#).

[Young professionals' study tour](#)

Young professionals' study tour was established by Austroads in 2004 with the intention of adding to the knowledge base within Austroads member organisations in areas considered to be of strategic importance. It aims to recognise young professionals who have the potential to make a significant contribution to their own organisation and Austroads over a sustained period.

Study tours are held every two years. The 2008-09 tour will be entitled 'Achieving ambitious road safety targets' and will visit countries with the lowest road toll rates – including Norway, Netherlands and Sweden. Participants will speak with key personnel in regard to both the setting of targets and more importantly, how these countries went about achieving them. All of the countries to be toured subscribe to a safe system approach, as does Australia. The tour will conclude with attendance at the OECD Conference in Paris in September 2008. Austroads member organisations have been invited to nominate young professionals to participate in the study tour. There is no age limit applied. However, it is expected that the participants will be younger staff members who are able to draw on the knowledge gained and contribute the benefits to their organisation and Austroads.

[Future strategic plan and program management arrangements](#)

Austroads' Council has reviewed its strategic planning processes and timeframe. The current strategic plan covers the five years from 2007 to 2012. In future, strategic plans will cover a period of four years with a major review and update undertaken every two years. Currently the Austroads work program is approved annually. In future it is to be approved for the duration of the strategic plan and subject to annual review. Program managers will be appointed for a four year period, but will changeover midway through the four year plan. The current program managers will continue until June 2009.

Longer term research requirements

Austrroads has been examining the longer term research requirements for the Australasian road industry. In doing so it considered input from ARRB, BITRE and NTC. It also looked at recent work undertaken in New Zealand and the work being undertaken by ATC on the development of a national transport policy.

It was concluded that the current Austrroads strategic plan positions Austrroads reasonably well to address current and emerging issues whether they are short or longer term. However, climate change and sustainability were areas identified as requiring greater attention.

The work currently being done by Austrroads on climate change and sustainability is to be documented and analysed to identify any further work that may be required in these areas.

New World Road Association technical committees

Austrroads has nominated representatives from Australia and New Zealand to the new technical committees for World Road Association for the period 2008 to 2011. With the implementation of the World Road Association strategic plan for 2008-2011, four new strategic themes were developed. The new technical committees will operate under these themes and present their final reports at the 2011 World Road Congress in Mexico. Austrroads is represented on 16 of the 17 technical committees.

The [World Road Association page](#) of the Austrroads website has been updated to include details of the four themes and the new technical committee representatives. Progress reports from the technical committees will be published on the website throughout the three year period.

New REAAA website

REAAA is the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia. The association promotes the science and practice of road engineering and related professions in the Asia Pacific region by developing professional and commercial links within and between countries in the region. Most Austrroads member organisations are institutional members of the REAAA Australian Chapter. Austrroads also provides the secretariat for the Australian Chapter.

A new REAAA website (www.reaaa.net) was officially launched by the Malaysian Deputy Minister of Works, Dato' Ir. Mohd Zin bin Mohamed, at the last REAAA Council meeting. The website provides users with detailed information about the REAAA and its history, news and events, publications, projects, contacts and REAAA membership. REAAA members can also provide information on future projects and conferences. The next stage of the website will include a special section for REAAA members where they can access a range of technical reports and journal papers.

Austrroads publications

Development of the Austrroads Guides is continuing with a further seven parts published since the last newsletter. The new releases, together with a suite of more than 400 publications are available from the [Austrroads publications website](#). The latest Guides to be released include:

Guide to Traffic Management Part 5: Road Management

Part 5 of the Guide to Traffic Management presents detailed information and guidelines relating to the factors that need to be considered when applying traffic management techniques and treatments to road types that include, freeways/motorways, urban arterial and local roads, rural highways and rural local roads. It considers the needs of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, heavy vehicles and public transport under the four key areas of access management, road space allocation, lane management and speed limits.

Guide to Traffic Management Part 11: Parking

Part 11 of the Guide to Traffic Management helps planners and engineers ensure that parking is provided in a safe and efficient manner, with due regard to considerations of access to, and the impact on, the wider road and transport system. It presents guidelines for determining supply and demand of parking and provides a parking policy framework on how the demand should be addressed. The implementation of on-street and off-street parking including parking controls in urban centres is addressed, as is parking on rural roads and at park-and-ride facilities.

Guide to Road Safety Part 3: Speed Limits and Speed Management

This guide provides an overview of speed limits and their application as a speed management tool. The use of appropriate speed limits is an integral part of a safe road system. They are a speed management tool used to improve road safety, while maintaining the efficiency of the road network. Within the context of a safe road system, speed limits need to reflect the varying types of road users, the road environment, types of vehicles driven and the safety, amenity and economic needs of the community. The general philosophy adopted when setting speed limits is that when they are being assessed, they take into consideration a comprehensive range of factors. These factors include the safety record of the road, the roads operating performance, the road and roadside infrastructure, geometry and roadside development.

Guide to Road Safety Part 9: Roadside Hazard Management

The purpose of this guide is to assist road safety practitioners minimise the risk of run-off-road crashes. The first key step in roadside hazard management is to provide a road environment that reduces the potential for road users to lose control of their vehicle and run off the road. Should this occur, it is essential that a roadside environment be provided that is free of hazards or forgiving. To reduce the incidence of these types of crashes and to support the 'safe road system' concept and goals, the need to take a strategic approach to treating and managing roadside hazards, so as to minimise their potential to cause injury or death, is essential.

Guide to Pavement Technology Part 9: Pavement Work Practices

This guide provides a quick reference to technical notes produced by various road transport authorities and industry organisations within Australasia. The technical notes are listed by the authority which produces the information and advice is given on where the documents may be obtained. Information in the technical notes covers a wide variety of road related topics such as road making materials, provision of drainage, design of rigid and flexible pavements and notes on specific proprietary materials and processes.

Guide to Road Design Part 7: Geotechnical Investigation and Design

Part 7 of the Guide to Road Design provides a basic understanding and appreciation of the importance of geotechnical investigations and how road design outcomes and other design activities are influenced by site conditions, associated ground response, geological hazards and locally available materials. This information can assist with the preparation of briefs and purchase of geotechnical services. There is some basic information on laboratory tests and commonly used special geotechnical treatments associated with geotechnical design activities contained in the appendices.

Glossary of Austroads Terms

The Glossary of Austroads Terms is available free in PDF from the [publications website](#). It covers the terms and definitions found in Austroads publications about pavement and materials technology, bridge technology, asset management, heavy vehicle operation (as it applies to road and bridge infrastructure), road safety, traffic management, traffic engineering, and transport planning and economics.

Since the last newsletter, two new research reports and three new technical reports were also published and are available from the [publications website](#). They include:

- Best Practice on Improving Level of Service for Freight Vehicles, On-Road Public Transport, HOV and Emergency Vehicles
 - Freeway Traffic Flow Under Congested Conditions: Literature Review
 - Optimum Use of Granular Bases – Construction of Test Pavements
 - A Review of Austroads Gyrotory Compaction Research
 - Audit of Rest Areas Against National Guidelines
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Future publications

A further two Guides will be released within the coming weeks. They are:

Austroads Bituminous Materials Safety Guide

This Guide is intended to assist managers and operational personnel involved in bitumen work hazards, safety training and equipment, First Aid, fire prevention, fire fighting and equipment, site arrangements to reduce hazards in handling, transfer and blending of bitumen binders, heating, cleaning, sampling and various safe practices involved in day to day sprayed sealing operations. It is in the final stages of preparation and will be published as a small booklet which is designed to be carried in the pocket for ready reference.

Guide to Traffic Management Part 8: Local Area Traffic Management

As part of the Guide to Traffic Management, Part 8 will present a systematic approach to traffic management in local areas, with guidance on the application and effectiveness of traffic control measures on an area-wide basis. Part 8 is in the final stages of preparation and is due to be released within the coming weeks.

Notification service – ‘RoadWatch’

RoadWatch is an email based service that provides users of the Austroads publications website with a customised notification alert. Subscribers can nominate to receive alerts about specific publications and/or subject areas, or all publications and subject areas. They are advised by email of any new publications that are released, or changes to existing publications, relevant to their specific areas of interest. For more information, or to register for RoadWatch, visit the [Austroads publications website](#).

Calendar of forthcoming events

2nd International Surface Friction Conference

11 – 14 May 2008, Cheltenham, England

Transit New Zealand and the UK Highways Agency are sponsoring the International Surface Friction Conference with the theme ‘Reducing Accidents, Saving Lives’. The conference is targeted towards an audience involved in highway design and maintenance, road network management, skid resistance, accident reduction, law enforcement, transport research, and motoring and transport organisations. There will be sessions on managing road and runway surfaces, applying good practice and improving safety. If you are interested in attending, more information is available from: www.saferroads.org.uk

IPWEA NSW Annual Conference

18 – 21 May 2008, Parramatta, NSW

The IPWEA NSW Annual Conference is a major event for the Public Works Industry providing a venue for interaction learning, workshops, and discussion and networking opportunities. The theme of this year’s conference is how to manage climate change at a local level. More information is available from: www.ipweanswconference.com.au

1st International Sprayed Sealing Conference

27 – 29 July, Adelaide

The aims of this Conference are to explore the technologies involved, and to share the science and the practical experience of a wide range of practitioners from many different countries and backgrounds. Recent developments in binder formulation, sealing technology and delivery systems will also be discussed, and further information will be available from exhibits and poster displays. More information is available from: arrb.com.au/ss08

ARRB Conference

30 July – 1 August 2008, Adelaide

ARRB conferences promote and facilitate discussion about issues relevant to the transport industry, and new research being undertaken on the local and international scene. Conferences are held every two years throughout Australasia, and involve local and international delegates. The next ARRB conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Discussions will be held about local and international research and case studies which provide innovative and practical solutions to current and emerging issues. More information is available from: www.arrb.com.au/conferences

Queensland Main Roads Technology Forum

5 – 7 August 2008, Brisbane

The theme of the 14th annual Main Roads Technology Forum is 'Connecting Technically'. The Forum will provide an exclusive opportunity to showcase the development of strategic initiatives and the use of contemporary innovation and technology from Government and Industry practitioners by way of presentations, workshops and discussion. It will present delegates with a greater understanding and appreciation of available and new practices which provide greater flexibility while maintaining consistency. For more information email: craig.l.moss@mainroads.qld.gov.au

Queensland Transport Infrastructure Summit

16 – 17 September 2008, Brisbane

The theme of the 11th annual Queensland Transport Infrastructure Summit is 'Planning the Boom State's Sustainable Transport Future'. The Summit will bring together government, finance, construction and transport leaders to assess the latest infrastructure projects. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss important issues such as funding, major projects, skills and regulations with key decision makers from within the industry. More information is available from: www.informa.com.au/qldtransport

Austroads Bridge Conference

26 – 30 May 2009, Auckland, New Zealand

Austroads bridge conferences are held every two or three years, bringing together professionals with an interest in bridge engineering to investigate the progress and future directions for bridge engineering both nationally and internationally. The conferences are relevant for any person involved in bridge engineering, including asset managers, technical staff, contractors, suppliers and consultants. The next conference will be hosted by Transit New Zealand, in Auckland, New Zealand from 26 until 29 May 2009. Not only is this the first time the Bridge conference will be held in New Zealand, it will also link in with the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Auckland Harbour Bridge on 30 May. The theme of the 2009 conference focuses on the important role of bridges within the transport network. The 2009 conference aims to promote discussion on contemporary bridge engineering and management issues and initiatives; showcase innovation, progress and new directions in bridge engineering, management, research and training; facilitate collaboration and information sharing by bringing together bridge engineering and management practitioners; and encourage young engineers to participate through attendance as well as presenting papers. This conference is an ideal opportunity to share information, explore opportunities, and investigate progress and future directions in bridge engineering and management. For more information email: douceline.vanarts@transit.govt.nz

The newsletter is developed and distributed every two months.
Contributions for future newsletters are always welcome. Please send via email to the Communications Manager:
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