

Austrroads Council Meeting No. 42
Sydney, New South Wales
21 June 2007

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austrroads Council met in Sydney on 21 June 2007. The meeting was chaired by the Austrroads Chairman Menno Henneveld. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

Proposed new Road Modal Group to SCOT

The Council noted the decision by the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) to establish a Road Modal Group. The focus of the new Group is to be primarily in relation to policy matters and, in particular, matters originated by COAG. It was noted that Austrroads will continue to report directly to SCOT. Working arrangements between Austrroads and the new Road Modal Group will need to be established to ensure that the policy development work undertaken has input from operational and technical perspectives.

The Council also agreed with the request from the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) that project FS1409 – Feasibility Study into Freight Data and Business Systems be deferred pending further clarification of the respective roles of the proposed Roads Modal Group and Austrroads.

Research needs working group

At the last meeting the Council established a small working group with representation from ARRB and Austrroads member organisations to formulate recommended actions on a range of issues identified from a study undertaken on the research requirements of the Australian road industry. Council considered the initial report of the working group which included suggestions for improving the coordination and dissemination of research undertaken by individual authorities and proposals for regular identification of longer term strategic research priorities for the road industry. Greater utilisation of research to increase professional development opportunities for road industry personnel and staff retention in road authorities has strong support from road authorities and will be considered by the Capability task force. The working group will be developing further proposals to improve procedures for the selection of Austrroads research projects including cost benefit considerations and mechanisms to improve the awareness of international road research and its utilisation. It will also plan a workshop to include Council members, observers, and program managers to identify longer term strategic research priorities for road industry.

The working group also reported on an international comparison of road research spending in eight countries. The results can be summarised in the following table:

	Road Spending AUS \$ m	Road research AUS \$ m	percentage
Australia	8,779.0	15.8	0.18%
Canada	19,796.6	11.4	0.06%
France	35,030.8	494.6	1.41%
Germany	28,381.4	56.8	0.20%
New Zealand	1,724.6	4.7	0.27%
South Africa	23,035.7	6.3	0.03%
Switzerland	3,558.2	17.8	0.50%
USA	275,609.8	807.9	0.29%
Average	49,489.5	176.9	0.36%

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On the recommendation of the research needs working group, Council agreed that ARRB establish a register of road research projects to provide a single source of reliable and current information. The register will provide details of road research projects both in progress and recently completed. Finished projects will be archived three years after completion. Details of projects being undertaken or funded by Austroads or its members and observers will form the majority of material in the database with some local government and industry records also included. The register will be accessible online and will aim at making researchers and practitioners aware of current research activity and providing contact details to obtain further information.

The register will be overseen by a research coordination group made up of representatives from Austroads member organisations. As well as guiding the development of the register the group members will be “champions” for the register in their own organisations. The group will also be in a position to lead other research coordination activities.

Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model

The Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM) is a safety assessment tool used to assist in the prioritisation of railway level crossings according to their comparative safety risk which is currently applied across all Australian states and territories and is overseen by a committee of road and rail technical people. Austroads has recently had discussions with the Australasian Railways Association (ARA), on the future management and development of ALCAM. The Council endorsed a joint management approach of ALCAM between Austroads and the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB), which operates under the ARA. A detailed agreement between the two organisations is to be developed.

Progress on the 2006-07 work program

Project status as at 31 May was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	16	8	24
Capability	2	4	6
Freight	9	1	10
Network	12	3	15
R&L	8	1	9
Safety	20	3	23
Technology	21	5	26
Corporate	9	2	11
Total	106	18	124

Finalisation of the work program for 2007-08

Council approved the final work program of projects to be funded in 2007-08. These are shown in Appendix A.

Transport Certification Australia

The Chairman, Steve Golding and the CEO, Chris Koniditsiotis attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the implementation of intelligent access.

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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.

Austrroads outstanding service award to Rod Frisby

An Outstanding Service award was approved for Rod Frisby who is the Registrar of Motor Vehicles at DTEI South Australia. In 1994 he represented South Australia at the inaugural meeting of the then Austrroads/NRTC Registration and Licensing reference group. He has been a strong advocate for jurisdictions to actively contribute to national projects and made an invaluable contribution to almost all of the significant R&L national reforms since the national road transport reform process commenced in 1991 with the establishment of the NRTC.

Austrroads International Activities

Council received reports on World Road Association matters including the Executive Committee and Commission meetings in Vienna in May 2007 and arrangements for the World Road Congress in Paris in 2007; and REAAA matters including the recent Council meeting in Korea. A report was also considered on the development of an agreement between the Australian Road Forum and the Chinese Ministry of Communications which involves Queensland Main Roads on behalf of Austrroads hosting a professional exchange of young engineers from China.

Future meetings

The next Austrroads Council meetings will be in Melbourne on 25 October 2007 and then in Auckland, New Zealand in March 2008.

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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
Development of National Skills Marketing Plan and Materials	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
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
Development of a National Approach to Traffic Control at Work Sites	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

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

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Project Title	Status
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

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
Austrroads 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 Austrroads RUE Unit Values and Related Methodologies	New
Review of CPEE Distance Learning Study Unit - Pavement Wearing Surfaces	New
Development of New CPEE Distance Learning Study Unit – Project Evaluation Principles	New

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Project Title	Status
Development of New CPEE Distance Learning Study Unit – Pavement Design, Pavement Maintenance and Rehabilitation and Road Asset Management	New
<i>Development of Guide to Bridge Technology</i>	
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
<i>Development of Guide to Pavement Technology</i>	
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
<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
Development of a National Road Research Register	New
Improving Local Road Expenditure Data Provision (NTC)	Continuing