

Austroads Council Meeting No. 43
Melbourne, Victoria
25 October 2007

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austroads Council met in Melbourne on 25 October 2007. The meeting was chaired by the Austroads Chairman Menno Henneveld. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

SCOT and Roads Modal Group

The Council discussed the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) and the newly established Roads Modal Group (RMG), the terms of reference for which had now been approved by SCOT.

The key points from the discussion were:

- Austroads will continue to give priority to projects initiated through SCOT, ATC or COAG.
- The source of funding for these projects will need to be determined on a case by case basis.
- Liaison between RMG and Austroads on projects being undertaken for SCOT, ATC or COAG will be undertaken by program managers who may agree to minor adjustments to Austroads projects to accommodate RMG requests.
- The national office will prepare a consolidated progress report on all SCOT, ATC or COAG projects and activities for each Council meeting.
- The Austroads Deputy Chair will be the high level liaison point between RMG and Austroads.

Project selection criteria / implementation of strategic plan

Council considered the process for development of project proposals and their assessment for inclusion in the forward work program, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007- 12. The following key points were agreed:

- Project proposals need to be fully developed particularly their scope, methodology, dissemination plan, timing and budget and clearly demonstrate how they contribute to achievement of the objectives of the strategic plan.
- A rigorous assessment of project proposals will be undertaken by the Executive committee in conjunction with program managers in February in preparation prior to their submission to the March Council meeting.
- A four year work program will be submitted to the March Council, which in conjunction with the projects being undertaken in 2007-08, will fully implement the Strategic Plan 2007- 12. In considering that package Council will also give consideration to the funds required and adjustments that may be required.
- Selection criteria have been agreed for the assessment of project proposals.

Austroads / ARRB technical research agreement

A new agreement between Austroads and ARRB Group for the delivery of technical research and publications development projects in ARRB's core capability areas for the period 2007-08 to 2009-10 was endorsed.

COMMUNIQUÉ

Identification of longer term research priorities

Following on from earlier consideration of the research requirements of the Australian road industry, the Council considered the question of longer term research priorities. It decided to have a half day discussion session on the day following the March 2008 Council meeting to identify future challenges and the processes required to build a related program of research. The following organisations will be invited to prepare papers as inputs to this discussion session:

- ARRB on international research activities and its drivers
- BTRE on outcomes of the latest colloquium
- Transit NZ on work being undertaken in New Zealand
- NTC on heavy vehicle management/regulation issues.

The Austroads national office will prepare a covering paper setting a frame-work for discussion.

Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE)

A new agreement between Austroads, the Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) and the Centre for Pavement Engineering Education (CPEE) was endorsed. The new agreement is similar to the previous agreement but includes the Austroads support arrangements agreed at the March Council meeting.

Progress on the 2007-08 work program

Project status as at 30 September was:

Program	Active	Completed/deferred	Total
Assets	22	-	22
Capability	1	1	2
Freight	8	6	14
Network	17	3	20
R&L	10	-	10
Safety	31	-	31
Technology	35	1	36
Corporate	4	1	5
Total	128	12	140

Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

- ARRB Group – the Chairman Bob Hogarth made a presentation to Council
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission.

Austroads awards

Austroads Achievement Awards were made to:

- Stephen Dove, DMR Qld.
- Brendan Nugent, RTA NSW.

COMMUNIQUÉ

An Outstanding Service award was awarded to Philip Rankine, DMR Qld, for outstanding service to Austrroads particularly through his work in supporting the Technology and Environment program, the Network program and the Technology program.

Austrroads International Activities

Council received reports on World Road Association matters including the World Road Congress in Paris in September 2007 and the Executive Committee and Council meetings held in conjunction with the Congress. It was noted that the next World Road Congress will be held in Mexico in 2011.

There was support for the development of an agreement between Austrroads' International Committee and the Australian Chapter of the REAAA. The next meeting of the REAAA Council will be held in Malaysia in November 2007.

Agreement has been reached in principle between the Chinese Ministry of Communications, Australian Road Forum and Austrroads, through Queensland Main Roads, for hosting a professional exchange of young engineers from China. It was noted that a senior Chinese delegation would be visiting Australia and New Zealand as part of these arrangements.

Austrroads Annual General Meeting

The Austrroads AGM for 2007 was held in conjunction with the Council meeting. The meeting adopted the annual report and financial statements for 2006-07. The annual report for 2006-07, including the financial statements is available from the Austrroads website.

Elections

Elections were held for office bearer and other positions. The results are as follows:

- Alan Tesch, DMR Qld, was elected Chairman for a two year term.
- Gary Liddle, VicRoads, was elected Deputy Chairman for a one year term.
- The Executive Committee will comprise the following:
 - Alan Tesch, DMR Qld (Chairman)
 - Gary Liddle, VicRoads (Deputy Chairman)
 - Rick van Barneveld, TNZ
 - Les Wielinga, RTA NSW
 - Andrew Wilson, DOTARS
 - Murray Kidnie, Executive Director.
- The International Committee will comprise the following:
 - Menno Henneveld, MR WA (Chairman)
 - Alan Tesch, DMR Qld
 - Rick van Barneveld, TNZ
 - Andrew Wilson, DOTARS
 - Gerard Waldron, ARRB Group
 - Murray Kidnie, Austrroads.

Future meetings

The next Austrroads Council meetings will be in Auckland, New Zealand on 27 March 2008 and in Queensland in June 2008.