



Strategic Plan 2007–2012



Austroads' vision is to be recognised for its leadership in providing high quality information and advice and fostering research in the Australasian road and road transport sectors.

ABOUT AUSTROADS

Austroads is the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities. Austroads members are the six Australian state and two territory road transport and traffic authorities, Australian Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS), Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), and Transit New Zealand.

Austroads is governed by a Council consisting of the chief executive (or an alternative senior executive officer) of each of its eleven member organisations:

- Roads and Traffic Authority New South Wales
- Roads Corporation Victoria
- Department of Main Roads Queensland
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure South Australia
- Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources Tasmania
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure Northern Territory
- Department of Territory and Municipal Services Australian Capital Territory
- Australian Department of Transport and Regional Services
- Australian Local Government Association
- Transit New Zealand.



PURPOSE

Austrroads' purpose is to contribute to improved Australian and New Zealand transport outcomes by:

- providing expert advice to the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) and the Australian Transport Council (ATC) on road and road transport issues
- facilitating collaboration between road agencies
- promoting harmonisation, consistency and uniformity in road and related operations
- undertaking strategic research on behalf of road agencies and communicating outcomes
- promoting improved and consistent practice by road agencies.

In pursuing its purpose Austrroads will:

- take an integrated approach to transport issues and work cooperatively with others
- develop partnerships and relationships with other similar organisations, industry and other stakeholders
- support technical research capacity
- respect the position of individual members
- promote an innovative approach
- demonstrate good governance and ethical conduct.

In undertaking projects Austrroads will consider:

- implications for road users
- community consultation and engagement
- environmental sustainability and cultural heritage
- transport integration
- funding and financing options
- improving data quality and availability.

WHAT AUSTROADS DOES

- **Conducts strategic research** – by undertaking projects which assist road agencies to address current and emerging issues that have the potential to have a major impact on their operation
- **Develops guides** – by establishing national consistency on technical and operational aspects of road networks for adoption by road agencies
- **Provides support for ATC** – through technical input to ATC and SCOT

- **Facilitates the sharing of knowledge** – by promoting the wide dissemination of outputs and technology, conducting seminars, and promoting the use of Austrroads work
- **Conducts business activities on behalf of Australasian road authorities**
- **Fosters international involvement** – by engaging with and supporting international road organisations.

HOW THIS IS ACHIEVED

Austrroads utilises the expertise of its member organisations to achieve its outcomes. This provides opportunities for the staff of member organisations to participate in the operation of Austrroads and the development and delivery of projects. It also encourages a collegiate, collaborative approach and facilitates learning, development, sharing and a high level of consistency across jurisdictions. The work to be undertaken in the Strategic Plan is divided into major areas called programs. The program structure broadly corresponds with the strategic priorities.

Council

The Austrroads Council, comprising the chief executive, or their nominee from each member organisation is the governing body. Council meets three times each year and has responsibility for providing clear policy and strategic direction. It also monitors the performance of Austrroads against strategic objectives and approves the annual work plans for each program.

Program Managers

Program managers are responsible for the development and management of annual work programs of project proposals that align with strategic objectives. Program managers also report to Council on the performance of each program. They work on Austrroads activities for a proportion of their time in conjunction with their responsibilities within their own organisations.

Task Forces and Review Panels

Task forces identify areas of interest and develop project proposals; oversee projects; promote the dissemination of results and provide a forum for the exchange of information between Austrroads member and related organisations.

Review panels oversee the development of the guides, other than the asset management and road safety guides, as this function is performed by the relevant task force.



In general, task force and review panel membership is limited to representatives of member organisations except in the case of road safety and registration and licensing, where task force membership may be from the responsible organisation in those jurisdictions where the road agency does not have responsibility for those functions. Some groups also include representation from observer and other stakeholder organisations.

National Office

The Austroads National Office provides secretariat support to the Austroads Council, coordinates Austroads' operations and provides support for programs and projects. The National Office also promotes knowledge sharing and manages Austroads' international involvement.

Annual Work Programs

Each year program manager's work with their task forces and review panels to develop project proposals for the following financial year that relate to the priorities of the strategic plan. The program managers then collectively assess project proposals and recommend an annual work program to the Austroads Council for funding in the following financial year.

Relations with Other Organisations

Austroads' most important relationships are with its member organisations. The resources and expertise contained in member organisations are drawn on extensively. Austroads also works closely with other organisations in the road industry and specifically with the ARRB Group, the National Transport Commission and the Bureau of Transport Research and Economics, which are observers on the Austroads Council.

Each program has a strategy for the engagement of external stakeholders and makes provision for their involvement on a project by project basis. However, Austroads recognises that primary engagement with external stakeholder organisations is generally undertaken by member organisations.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

An assessment of emerging trends and issues facing the road industry was carried out and reviewed by Council. The major factors affecting future transport include:

- Demographic patterns – travel impacts from demographics, population growth and lifestyle factors
- Road safety – interactions between people, vehicles and infrastructure

- Traffic congestion – interaction of demand and capacity in the movement of people, goods and services, travel time reliability, mobility and economic impacts
- Goods transport – impact of global economy on freight efficiency
- Sustainability and environmental impact – including energy, noise and vehicle emissions
- Transport security and emergency response
- Achieving national consistency.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Taking into account these challenges, Austroads has identified the following strategic priorities for the five years from July 2007 to June 2012, and the objectives for each are as follows:

- **Asset management** – *to minimise the whole of life cost of road and bridge assets to meet the transport task.*
- **Capability** – *skills development and retention.*
- **Freight management** – *to address the future freight task.*
- **Network optimisation** – *to improve the productivity and reliability of the road network in moving people and goods.*
- **Registration and licensing** – *to enhance the security and integrity of registration and licensing information.*
- **Road safety** – *to reduce road trauma through a safe systems approach.*
- **Technology** – *to promote best practice in technology.*

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

A major focus for Austroads over the next five years will be on improving the knowledge sharing aspects of its operation and promoting national consistency. A separate knowledge sharing strategy has been developed. The main elements of the strategy are to:

- continue to develop the Austroads publications website as the primary source of Austroads outputs
- engage with key stakeholders and tap into their networks to increase awareness of Austroads outputs and their utilisation
- develop knowledge sharing strategies specific to each strategic priority area.



ASSESSING AUSTRROADS' PERFORMANCE

Austrroads has developed measures to assess its performance and progress against the strategic plan. These can be summarised as follows:

- Projects completed on time and on budget
- Take up of Austrroads outputs
- Adoption of Austrroads guides by road agencies
- Satisfaction of road agencies with Austrroads' operation:
 - as a mechanism for collaboration
 - as a source of high quality, practical research
 - as a source of valuable publications
 - in providing opportunities for professional development for road agency staff
 - in providing value for money for road agencies
 - in responding to strategic priorities
 - in enabling road agencies to improve their outcome effectiveness.
- Recognition by SCOT and ATC as a source of competent, professional advice on road transport
- Recognition by road agency staff for providing valuable opportunities for professional development, information exchange and networking.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The work to be undertaken has been divided into major areas, called programs, with a senior officer of a member organisation appointed as program manager reporting to the Austrroads Council on their area of responsibility. The following is a summary of the programs, the guides and the groups for which they are responsible.

Program	Guides	Groups
Assets	Asset Management	Assets task force
Freight		Freight task force
Network	Traffic Management	Network task force Traffic management review panel Australian Bicycle Council
Registration & Licensing		R&L task force NEVDIS
Safety	Road Safety	Safety task force
Technology	Bridge Technology Pavement Technology Project Delivery Road Design Project Evaluation Road Transport Planning	Bridge technology review panel Pavement technology review panel Project delivery review panel Road design review panel Transport planning and project evaluation review panel

There is also a Capability task force which addresses skill shortage and capability issues and reports to the Austrroads Council. However, most of the work involves knowledge sharing between member organisations.

Note: In this document 'road agency' includes local authorities.

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promoting improved road transport outcomes