

Austroads Council Meeting No. 35

Wellington, New Zealand

8 April 2005

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Austroads Council met in Wellington, New Zealand, on 8 April 2005. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting, which was chaired by Austroads Chairman Paul Forward.

The chief purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the 2004-05 Austroads work program and formulate the preliminary work program for 2005-06. The meeting also included a discussion on training and skill requirements for road authorities.

Status of 2004-05 work program

As at 1 March, the status of the 2004-05 Austroads work program was:

Projects completed	29
Projects on schedule	70
Projects behind schedule	<u>35</u>
	134

Work has commenced on all projects and they are progressing satisfactorily.

Preliminary consideration of 2005-06 work program

The Council gave preliminary consideration to projects for 2005-06. Subject to final approval at the next Council meeting, continuing and new projects for 2005-06 were approved. These are shown in Appendix A.

Technical research arrangements with ARRB

Austroads has an agreement with ARRB for the delivery of technical research and technology transfer projects in the areas of bituminous surfacings, pavement structures, asset management and engineering safety, subject to the inclusion of appropriate performance criteria.

The key performance criteria to be reported annually are:

- The extent to which technical research capacity has been sustained
- The production of quality and relevant research
- Delivery of real business benefits to Austroads' members

The Council considered an overview prepared by ARRB detailing progress in 2004-05, findings and performance. Program managers reported on the progress of individual projects and proposed technical research projects, developed in conjunction with ARRB, for the 2005-06 work program.

Intelligent Access Program

The Council considered a status report on the Intelligent Access Program. The completion of Stage 1 Implementation, the formation of the Certification and Audit Group 'Interim Board of Directors' and the appointment of Paul Forward as its Chair, were all noted.

Transport Certification Australia is the name of the new entity responsible for the certification and audit of service providers. Arrangements are underway for this to be established as a company.

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Training and skills requirements

Council members considered a paper summarising the initiatives and strategies implemented within Austrroads member organisations to address staff skill/competency gaps. Discussion focussed on current and projected skill shortages, how to address these shortages and the role road authorities should play. Council concluded that these issues were not specific to roads and should be broadly taken up by SCOT, with Austrroads providing input.

Discussion also included career selection, education and educational content, as well as in-house training. The Austrroads National Office has been asked to convene a workshop, inviting participants from each jurisdiction. The workshop will provide an opportunity to share ideas, define road authority understanding of the issue and Austrroads role in this matter. The result will be to scope future work and provide a report.

The Council also considered an overview of the contract training provisions currently used in works contract documentation and tender assessment processes by member organisations.

Standards Australia

Austrroads is represented on 114 Standards Australia committees. Council members agreed on a number of initiatives to improve these working arrangements. A meeting will be convened of Austrroads representatives on Standards Australia committees as part of this process.

Austrroads International Activities

Council reviewed a report from the Austrroads International Committee. The Committee's report covered the following matters:

- World Road Association (PIARC) activities, including:
 - the Executive Council meeting held in Chile in March attended by David Anderson
 - reports from Austrroads representatives on PIARC technical committee representation (Australia and/or New Zealand are represented on 17 of the 18 PIARC committees)
 - the appointment Amy Hall from Main Roads WA to undertake the next secondment to the PIARC secretariat starting in June/July
- Transportation Association of Canada – a study tour of Canadian officials is proposed for June/July
- A report on road safety initiatives is being produced for US Federal Highways Administration
- New Zealand international activities
- REAAA activities
- OECD and APEC transport issues.

Menno Henneveld was elected to the International Committee.

Austrroads publications website

Austrroads' publications web site became operational in October 2004. It is accessible through links on Austrroads home page, www.austrroads.com.au and contains all Austrroads publications, which can be ordered in PDF or hardcopy.

The utilisation of the new publications web site has been pleasing. Revenue from sales continues at about the same level as prior to its commencement. Free downloads of documents have increased and there has been a substantial number of people registering to receive the RoadWatch update service, which advises of new or revised publications.

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The utilisation of the facility by local government has not been as high as was hoped despite wide promotion. Further effort will be made to expand take up by councils.

Reports

Council considered reports from the following organisations:

- ARRB Group
- Australian Local Government Association
- Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics
- National Transport Commission.

Austroads awards

An Outstanding Service Award was made to Peter Balfe of VicRoads for his significant contribution to Austroads over an extended period of time. A new award, entitled the Austroads Young Professionals award, will be introduced for 2005-06. A topic is proposed for the Austroads Young Professionals award for 2005-06. The Network program will develop an itinerary for a study tour for circulation to Council members by the end of April.

Transit New Zealand presentation

Rick Van Barneveld the Chief Executive of Transit New Zealand made a presentation on:

- Transit's strategic plan
- the repositioning of Transit
- a new planning agenda
- delivery of change
- network operations.

New Program Managers

Since the last Council meeting three program managers have left. The Council endorsed the following as new program managers:

- Michael Bushby, RTA NSW, as Registration & Licensing Program Manager
- John Dudgeon, DMR Qld, as Freight Program Manager
- Gary Liddle, VicRoads, as Technology Program Manager.

The Council expressed appreciation for the excellent work that has been undertaken by the outgoing program managers:

- Peter Balfe – VicRoads,
- Sean Kennedy – RTA NSW
- David Rolland – DIPE NT.

Future meetings

The next Austroads Council meetings will be:

- 29 July 2005 in Brisbane
- 11 November 2005 in Perth.

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Appendix A

ASSETS

Project Title	Status
Quantifying Community Expectations of Levels of Service on Road Networks	Continuing
Standardised Measurement of Road Condition	Continuing
Intervention Standards and Cost Models	Continuing
Long-Term Performance Monitoring to Develop Consistent Performance Models	Continuing
Establish Network Performance Profiles, Identify Under-Performing Pavements and Establish Contributory Causes	Continuing
Management of Skid Resistance	Continuing
Assets Publication Series – Bridge Condition Monitoring	Continuing
Road Use Data – Harmonisation of Collection, Reporting and Access	New
Communicating Strategic Decisions to Stakeholders	New
Asset Management – Remaining Pavement Life	New
Management of Road Surface Characteristics	New
Salinity Impacts on Pavement Life	New
Publication Series	
Development of Stakeholder/Community Requirements Part 2	New
Development of Asset Strategies Part 3	New
Development of Program Development and Implementation Part 4	New
Development of Pavement Condition Monitoring Part 5	New

FREIGHT

Project Title	Status
Integration and Application of Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines	Continuing
ITS Technologies for Metropolitan Freight Vehicle Operations	Continuing
Community Attitudes to Road Freight Vehicles – Behavioural Research	Continuing
Vehicle Environmental Standards for Night Time Operations	Continuing
Guidelines for Identifying, Assessing and Managing the Environmental Impacts Arising from Trucks Using Metropolitan Road Links	Continuing
Freight Forecasting and Analysis – Scoping Study	New

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Project Title	Status
Understanding Network Performance Provided to Road Users	Continuing
Review Recent Developments in Road Pricing Including Freight	Continuing
Understanding how Micro-simulation Traffic Models can be Used to Improve the Performance of the Road Network	Continuing
Improving Incident Management	Continuing
TRARR (Traffic on Rural Roads) Software Program Upgrade	Continuing
Understanding how Operational Changes Impact Network Performance	New
Guidelines for Evaluation of Travel Demand Management Measures	New
Improving Levels of Service to Specific Users Including Freight, Public Transport and Emergency Vehicles	New

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Project Title	Status
Evaluation of Benefits and Risks Associated with the Access to Registration and Licensing Data	Continuing
Closing Loopholes Concerning Transfer of Licence Sanctions	Continuing
Review of Compliance with the Participation Agreement and NEVDIS requirements including Privacy	Continuing
Uniform Set of National Enrolment Standards Client (including for non standard evidence of identity)	Continuing
Uniform Set of National Vehicle Entry Standards	Continuing

SAFETY

Project Title	Status
The Australasian Road Safety Audit Advisory System	Continuing
A Reliable Low Cost Travel Exposure Index and Classification of Motorcycles as a Distinct Vehicle Class	Continuing
Balance between harm reduction and mobility in setting Speed Limits: Stage 2	Continuing
Austrroads' Australasian Road Safety Handbook, Volume 4: Developing a Safer System	Continuing
Analysis of the Safety Benefits of Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Schemes	Continuing
Safer vehicle purchases: developing cost/benefit estimates for fleet managers and others	Continuing
A Road Safety Engineering Tool Kit	Continuing
Updating Australasian Road Safety Handbook	Continuing
Development of Safety Publications Series	Continuing
Road Safety Risk Assessment: Stage 3	Continuing
Promotion and Dissemination of the Road Safety Risk Manager	Continuing

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Review of Safety Practices Used by Commercial Vehicle Purchasers	New
Older Driver Model Assessment Program: Phase 3 (Implementation and evaluation of improved screening procedures for assessing older drivers' performance levels)	New
Road Safety Risk Assessment: Stage 4	New
Safety Benefits of Improving the Interaction between Heavy Vehicles and the Roads System	New
Scoping of Future Strategic Road Safety Research	New

TECHNOLOGY

Project Title	Status
Pavement Technology Series – Revision of Austroads Guide to Stabilisation in Roadworks	Continuing
Influence of Vertical Loading on the Performance of Unbound and Cemented Materials	Continuing
Quantifying the Stresses at the Tyre/Surface Interface and the Resulting Performance Impacts	Continuing
Improved Sprayed Sealing Operations – procedures and guidelines	Continuing
Maximising the Benefits from Polymer Modified Binders	Continuing
Using Overseas Bitumen	Continuing
Delivering Better Quality Asphalt	Continuing
Materials Innovation Management System	New
Better Basis for Bases: Optimum Use of Granular Bases	New
Impact of PBS Vertical Loading Standard at the Network Level	New
<i>Publication Series</i>	
Bridge Technology Parts 2, 4 and 5	New
Project Delivery Parts 1 and 3	New
Pavement Technology Parts 4a, 4b, 4g, 8 and 9	New
Project Evaluation (update of units for use in calculating road user effects)	New
Road Design Parts 4, 5 and 7	New
Traffic Management Parts 4, 8, 9 and 12	New
Transport Planning Parts 1 and 2	New