

Communiqué



Austroads Board Meeting No. 54

20 November 2024 | Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

The Austroads Board met on 20 November 2024 in Canberra. The meeting was chaired by Louise McCormick, Infrastructure Commissioner, Infrastructure NT, Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics Northern Territory. The Chair acknowledged the Australian indigenous peoples as the first peoples of Australia, and specifically acknowledged the local indigenous people, the Ngunnawal, of the Canberra area. She also acknowledged the Māori as the original people of New Zealand and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Presentation by Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

The Board welcomed Jim Betts, Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. Mr Betts discussed the role of ITSOC and ITMM, road investment planning, road transport decarbonisation, road safety and the National Road Technology Strategy.

Resilient Transport 2025

The Board were enthusiastic about the upcoming seminar on Resilient Transport 2025 being co-hosted by Transport for NSW and Austroads on 12 February 2025 in Sydney. The event will feature expert-led discussions, presentations and networking opportunities with a shared goal of increasing the resilience and adaptability of assets and networks across Australasia. The 2025 seminar follows a successful event co-hosted with Transport and Main Roads Queensland in 2022. The Board expressed a desire for the event to become a regular feature.

Decarbonisation of infrastructure and transport

Steve Brogan and Sandra Qian from Infrastructure Australia presented to the Board on the progress towards costing and reporting carbon emissions and abatement as part of a broader project to further develop the economic reporting associated with infrastructure projects. The work is complementary to projects being undertaken by Austroads. The Board agreed that Austroads will prepare a paper to ITSOC about how Austroads can enable decarbonation with practical measures.

Four-year financial forecast

Geoff Allan and Sharon Johnson presented a four-year financial forecast to the Board. The forecast show trends of increasing asset value and associated expenses with a relatively flat income as the organisation establishes new self-sustaining services. The organisation is pursuing opportunities for new services including training and data analysis.

Priority projects

National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework

The Board approved the inception report and budget for the reforms to the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework. Will Tieppo was appointed the board champion for the project.

Safety at Road Worksites (harmonisation of temporary traffic management practice)

The Board noted that over 6,000 people have been enrolled or trained under the new national framework. The Austroads Innovative TTM Device and Solution Assessment (AITDSA) Scheme has approved six innovative TTM solutions.

Austroads Technical Specifications

The Board noted that 66 Austroads Technical Specifications have now been published with a further 119 at various stages of development and approval.

Austroads Digital Trust Service

The Board noted the success of the recent Austroads International Identity and Verifiable Credential Summit (IVC24) which demonstrated the interoperability of ISO compliant digital licences between Australia, the USA and Europe. Austroads has commenced Stage 3 of the project and next meeting will present the Board with an inception report and budget for approval.

Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held 13 February 2025 in Sydney, New South Wales.