Communiqué

Austroads Board Meeting No. 35
7 November 2019 | Canberra

The Austroads Board met on 7 November 2019 in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory and was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Membership of Austroads Ltd

The Department of Transport Victoria was approved as the Victorian member organisation, following the resignation of VicRoads.

Austroads Structure

The Board welcomed a report on the review of the Austroads organisation (Austroads, TCA and NEVDIS) and agreed to the recommended changes to the organisational structure. A Financial Controller is to be initially recruited followed by an information technology lead and a full-time human resources manager.

Strategic Planning

The Board discussed the importance of technology to improve both road safety and the economy, and the increasing importance of sustainability and environmental matters for member organisations. These issues will be addressed in the next Austroads Strategic Plan.

Strategic Projects

An update on the strategic priority projects identified by the Board is provided below.

- **Data Harmonisation** | The Road Asset Data Standard is in an implementation phase. The project is engaging with several groups of local governments to establish arrangements for data extraction, harmonisation and analysis to be established. Local Government collaboration activities will utilise the Knowledge Sharing Platform developed during the pilot phase. The project is also working with road agencies to improve the alignment between agency reporting data and the priority data sets. Workshops are being organised to engage asset management software vendors on opportunities to align with the data standard.

- **Austroads Technical Specifications** | The development of a number of specifications and test methods is progressing well. An Austroads Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) (previously known as the Chief Engineers Group) will be established to oversee the Austroads Technical Specifications project (ASP6089). The Board endorsed the ATAG Terms of Reference and an independent Chair will be engaged for an initial period of 12 months.

- **Safety at Road Worksites** | Work continues to progress well. The project is made up of a number of modules including a 10-part Guide to Temporary Traffic Management. The Guide has been endorsed by all Board members. The first edition of the Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management will be released on Wednesday 11 December 2019 as part of a launch event to be held in Brisbane.

- **Cross Section Design for Road Stereotypes and a Safe System |** The key output from this project will deliver a world-first performance-based road design standard. QLD DTMR and Salisbury City Council are trialling the methodology. A train-the-trainer model has been confirmed to roll-out this new method to all road authorities (particularly local government) in the latter half of the 2019 calendar year to meet National Road Safety Action Plan commitments of 2020. Extensive trials are underway to refine the method and the planning underway for 'train-the-trainer' sessions across Australia. The Network-wide Road Design User Guide and supporting Research Report is expected to be sent to the Austroads Board members for publishing in the next month.

- **Infrastructure Changes to Support Automated Vehicles** | This project is investigating the investment required in physical and digital infrastructure to support the operation of connected and automated vehicles across key highways in Australia and New Zealand. The reports for all five project modules were released in October 2019.

Research Work Program

2019-20 Work Program Overview

There were 107 projects approved in the 2019-20 work program, with 72 projects continuing from previous financial years and 35 new projects commencing in 2019-20.The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 21 October 2019.

Status	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Other	Total
Complete	12	1	5	6	-	24
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	2	1	-	-	3
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	27	5	24	23	1	80
Total approved	**39**	**8**	**30**	**29**	**1**	**107**

National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS)

NEVDIS collects, collates and distributes vehicle, licence, and registration data on behalf of the eight State and Territory road authorities and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. The system services 200 million+ transactions each year.

NEVDIS continues to support Safety Recall activities and the increased focus to resolve faulty Takata Airbag inflators. NEVDIS has been conducting Safety Recall data extracts for Takata Airbag related recalls at no charge from July 2017 – December 2020. To date Registered Operator details have been extracted against some 25 million Vehicle Identification Numbers.

Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 2 April 2020 in Hobart, Tasmania.