

# Communiqué



## Austroads Board Meeting No. 32 22 November 2018 | Brisbane

The Austroads Board met on 22 November 2018 in Brisbane, Queensland and was chaired by Neil Scales, Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

### Annual General Meeting

The Austroads Ltd, 2018 Annual General Meeting was held immediately prior to the Board meeting and was chaired by Neil Scales.

### Appointments

- Neil Scales was appointed to the office of Chairperson of Austroads Ltd for a further two-year term.
- Shane Gregory was appointed to the office of Deputy Chairperson of Austroads Ltd for a further two-year term.
- The current Executive Committee as appointed at Austroads Board Meeting No. 30 in April 2018 was reappointed until November 2019:
  - Neil Scales DTMR QLD (Chair)
  - Shane Gregory DSG TAS (Deputy Chair)
  - Nick Koukoulas (Chief Executive)
  - Louise McCormick DIPL NT
  - Alex Foulds DIRDAC
  - Ken Kanofski RMS NSW.

The [Austroads Annual Report 2017-18](#) was adopted at the meeting.

### Strategic Projects

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

- **Data Harmonisation** | The Data Standard Implementation Plan sets out a series of strategic initiatives that together deliver a staged and managed implementation of the Road Asset Data Standard. Local government pilots are being carried out in five groups across three stages. This will allow the pilots to test the use of the data in a range of different geographies, road conditions and local government types. The initial set of pilots commenced in early November with a group of Victorian local governments.
- **National Technical Specifications** | Harmonising technical specifications will also require harmonisation of contracts and test methods which may include general terms and conditions of contracts, pavement marking, fabrication of steelwork, and signage in tunnels. An extensive consultation process had been undertaken with all jurisdictions visited except ACT and Tasmania (they adopt other jurisdictions' specifications) who were consulted by phone.

As a way forward, a project brief had been submitted that proposed the development and implementation of standard specifications for the construction of roadworks and bridgeworks that incorporate the most appropriate technical requirements. The concept of this work is strongly supported by the Board.

- **Safety at Road Worksites** | Work continues to progress well on this project. The project is made up of five modules: Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management, Harmonised Australasian Training, Australasian Registration Platform, Australasian Prequalification Scheme and AS 1742.3 – *Manual of uniform traffic control devices: Traffic control for works on roads*.

A review addressing scoping and delivery of the project will be undertaken and a report provided to the April 2019 Board meeting.

- **Congestion Management and Network Operations Opportunities** | This project is undertaking multiple streams of research to support road agencies in the optimisation of their networks, manage congestion and improve the movement of people and goods. A progress report for the project was noted.
- **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. The project will support jurisdictions in the implementation of components of the National Road Safety Action Plan.

An accelerated project is proposed to be brought forward into the 2018-19 financial year following the approval to publish the Research Report and User Guide produced as part of this project.

- **Infrastructure Changes to Support Automated Vehicles** | This project is investigating the level of investment in public infrastructure including physical and digital infrastructure required to support the operation of connected and automated vehicles across key highways in Australia and New Zealand. A progress report for the project was noted.
- **Australia and New Zealand Roads Capability Analysis 2017-2027** | This project, which focused on the traditional and future skills required by road agencies, has been completed. The report from this project was published in July 2018. A webinar was also held and is available from the Austroads website. Possibilities for further work in this area are being explored.
- **Austroads Online** | The new Austroads website was launched on 3 September 2018. The new website combines the Austroads corporate website and publications website into a single site and provides the Austroads Guides as an online resource.

To date approximately 10,000 people have established an account on the site and we have received excellent feedback about the ease of searching and browsing for publications.

Downloads in 2018-19 have significantly increased as a result of the Austroads Guides being made freely available to users from 1 July.

While this has seen the number of Guides downloaded increase, other publication types have also seen increased downloads.

## Research Work Program

### 2017-18 Work Program Overview

There were 114 projects approved in the 2017-18 work program, with 78 projects continuing from previous financial years and 36 new projects commencing in 2017-18. Forty-three projects were completed, and one was cancelled.

There were only four delayed projects at the end of the financial year. Board members commended Program Managers and Coordinators and Project Managers on an excellent result.

The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 30 June 2018.

Status	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Other	Total
Complete	17	3	10	13	-	43
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	1	-	-	1
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	28	6	13	21	2	70
<b>Total approved</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>

### 2018-19 – Work Program Overview

There are 98 projects approved in the 2018-19 work program, with 70 projects continuing from previous financial years and 28 new projects commencing in 2018-19.

The table below details the status of the Austroads projects as at 31 October 2018.

Status	Assets	Connected & Automated Vehicles	Network	Safety	Other	Total
Complete	4	1	3	-	1	9
Cancelled / Abandoned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred	-	-	-	-	-	-
Active	32	7	18	31	1	89
<b>Total approved</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>98</b>

### 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. It services 135 million+ transactions each year. Major projects are progressing well including:

- The National Heavy Vehicle Registration System is working well and currently meeting National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) requirements with further development of the system with additional data elements planned for future stages.
- The NEVDIS Re-platform project is progressing well with a number of activities running in parallel. User Acceptance Testing (UAT) has been conducted against the recompiled and re-platformed core NEVDIS application. All NEVDIS Participants signed off their UAT and the platform cutover was successfully implemented on 4 November.
- The NEVDIS Re-write project continues with its development phase. During August and September 2018, the NEVDIS Manager and two NEVDIS Senior Business Analysts visited State and Territory agencies to provide updates on the rewrite and present the roadmap to go-live and beyond, with strong interest being shown in future capabilities.

### Next Austroads Meeting

The next Austroads Board meeting will be held on Thursday 4 April 2019 in Melbourne Victoria.