

COAG Transport and Infrastructure Council

2017 Terms of Reference

Chair	The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development is the permanent Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council).
Membership	<p>The Council consists of a maximum of two ministers from the Commonwealth and each state and territory with portfolio responsibility for transport and infrastructure issues; and a single representative from New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.</p> <p>Each jurisdiction will nominate a Senior Minister as a representative on the Council.</p> <p>The Chair may invite representatives from other agencies and industry organisations to participate in specific meetings or discussions, as appropriate.</p>
Operations	<p>The Council will meet face to face twice a year. Jurisdictions will host meetings on a rotational basis. Additional work will be conducted out-of-session.</p> <p>The Council will make decisions on the basis of consensus wherever possible, unless specific voting rules are included in a relevant governing instrument(s). Where a vote is required; the principle of one vote per jurisdiction will apply.</p> <p>The Council Secretariat will be funded by and located within the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.</p>
Scope of Council responsibility	<p>The Council will play a key role in delivering national reforms to improve the efficiency and productivity of Australia's infrastructure and transport systems, and ensure these systems drive economic growth, increase employment opportunities, support social connectivity and enhance quality of life for all Australians.</p> <p>The Council's national reform priorities will be framed around the following key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating national rail, road, aviation, port and maritime supply chains, and improving integration between land use and infrastructure planning;• Improving system efficiency and extracting the greatest use from existing infrastructure, while at the same time meeting community expectations of safety, security, access and reliability;• Developing sustainable, efficient funding and delivery models.• Improving the capacity of infrastructure and transport systems to respond to new and emerging challenges and pressures – and to lessen the need for high cost new infrastructure;• Improving the environmental performance of infrastructure and transport systems – including mitigating adverse environmental effects, such as transport emissions;• Continuing a focus on transport safety while maintaining awareness of technological developments (positive and disruptive) that may impact safety and security; and• Removing barriers to innovation, and capitalising on new and emerging technologies.

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	<p>This Council’s strategic work programme will include, where relevant, its existing responsibilities under Commonwealth and State legislation, National Agreements, National Partnerships and any other governance arrangements.</p> <p>The Council will work actively to ensure all relevant mainstream, regional and remote, and indigenous-specific policy, program and service delivery improves outcomes for indigenous people.</p> <p>In pursuing its reform priorities, the Council will consider the impact of regulation on individuals, community organisations and business and identify opportunities to reduce or remove this burden, wherever possible.</p>
Specific reform priorities to progress Council responsibilities	<p>The Council’s reform priorities¹ include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable funding for transport and infrastructure; 2. Embracing innovation and technology in transport and infrastructure; 3. Productive and liveable cities and regions; and 4. Maximising freight productivity.
Review and reporting	<p>The Council will be reviewed annually by COAG against its priorities, including whether there is a continuing need for the Council.</p> <p>The Council will report to COAG as required on its progress.</p> <p>The Council is able to refer matters to COAG for its consideration, noting that these will be matters genuinely requiring First Ministers’ attention (such as major decisions and intergovernmental agreements).</p> <p>The Council can also advise COAG on an exception basis, especially when its priorities are not progressing satisfactorily.</p>

¹ Further details are available in the Transport and Infrastructure Council – Strategic Work programme at http://transportinfrastructurecouncil.gov.au/publications/files/Council_Strategic_Work_Programme.pdf