

Communiqué

**SYDNEY
FRIDAY, 22 MAY 2015**

The 3rd meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council) was held in Sydney today. The Council includes Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

Industry representatives from the Australasian Railways Association, the Australian Automobile Association, the Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association, the Australian Logistics Council, the Australian Trucking Association, the Bus Industry Confederation and the Truck Industry Council also attended as observers of the meeting and provided their views on the items for consideration by Ministers.

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

Infrastructure Australia provided the Council with the findings of the National Infrastructure Audit. Infrastructure Australia advised that the Audit will be publicly released shortly after the Council meeting. Building on the outcomes of the National Infrastructure Audit, the Council noted the importance of the 15-Year Infrastructure Plan in driving improved planning and project prioritisation.

The Council noted the implementation to date of the Infrastructure Reform Agenda. In particular, the Council acknowledged the work of the jurisdictions in supporting the initiatives underway, including the development of infrastructure project and cost benchmarking analysis, reviews of the National Guidelines on project delivery, and the ongoing updates to the *National Guidelines on Transport System Management*. These initiatives will ensure greater value for money for governments and drive down costs for industry.

The Council also agreed to continue to develop longer term reforms to better selection, funding, delivery and management of major infrastructure investment settings as these are fundamental to growing productivity.

HEAVY VEHICLE ROAD REFORM

The Council noted progress implementing the heavy vehicle road reform initial measures agreed by Council Ministers in May 2014. The initial measures lay the groundwork for longer term reform of heavy vehicle investment and charging arrangements. The first outputs of the initial measures will be delivered to the Council in November 2015 and will include a national

four year forward road expenditure plan and heavy vehicle road asset service standards publication covering Key Freight Routes. This will represent a major milestone achievement for reform of road infrastructure provision and use in Australia and is designed to improve the heavy vehicle industry's engagement in the road planning and investment decision making process.

The Council also agreed a longer term road map which outlines the sequence of institutional and governance reform steps along the path to full market reform of heavy vehicle investment and charging arrangements.

HEAVY VEHICLE REGULATION

The Council was briefed by the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator on progress with the Heavy Vehicle Roadworthiness Program, including development of options contained in a draft consultation regulation impact statement. The Council endorsed the development of a Regulation Impact Statement in July 2015, and to prioritising the progression of particular elements to improve heavy vehicle road safety. The Council agreed to bring forward consideration of a package of measures to expedite national consistency and compliance improvements for decision in November 2015. The package will include measures regarding chain of responsibility duties for vehicle maintenance and scheduled inspections with the intention of implementing improvements as soon as possible.

The Council also noted policy issues associated with the development of a national heavy vehicle registration scheme, and directed the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to progress plans for the implementation of a fully workable scheme by 1 July 2018.

RAIL REGULATION

The Council approved the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator's refreshed Corporate Plan, providing the organisation with a mandate to pursue further rail reforms from 2015–2018. The Council also endorsed new 2015-16 fee structures for the provision of regulatory services, and noted progress made by the regulator towards achieving full industry cost recovery arrangements.

The Council also noted Western Australia's anticipated adoption of the Rail Safety National Law, and adopted the commencement of the regulator's review of fatigue arrangements, which will consider the degree to which fatigue is a risk factor for rail incidents, assess the effectiveness by industry of managing this risk, and develop options for an effective legislative framework to reduce fatigue-related safety risks.

NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSION REVIEW

The Council considered an interim report from the independent expert panel that is undertaking the second six-yearly review of the National Transport Commission under s.51 of the *National Transport Commission Act 2003*. The review will be finalised in the coming months and a report will be provided by the Council to the Council of Australian Governments by 6 September 2015.

REVIEW OF THE *MOTOR VEHICLE STANDARDS ACT 1989*

The Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development briefed the Council on the Australian Government's review of the *Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989*. The Australian Government intends to reduce regulatory red-tape through accelerating Australia's alignment with global light vehicle standards. In this context, the Australian Government is also considering opportunities to streamline importation arrangements, while strengthening the overall safety of Australia's vehicle fleet. The Council endorsed the general direction of these reforms.

NATIONAL REMOTE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Council considered progress on the development of the National Remote and Regional Transport Strategy (the Strategy) currently being led by the Northern Territory, and approved the release of the draft Strategy for public consultation from May to July 2015.

The Strategy importantly seeks to address the significant transport challenges faced in remote and regional Australia. The Council will discuss the final Strategy and its implementation at its meeting in November 2015.

NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY

The Council noted the Implementation Report 2014 for the National Cycling Strategy 2011–16.

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The Hon Warren Truss MP	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development (Commonwealth)
The Hon Jamie Briggs MP	Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development (Commonwealth)
The Hon Duncan Gay MLC	Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight (New South Wales)
The Hon Jacinta Allan MP	Minister for Public Transport (Victoria)
The Hon Jackie Trad MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Queensland (Queensland)
The Hon Dean Nalder MLA	Minister for Transport (Western Australia)
The Hon Stephen Mullighan MP	Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (South Australia)
The Hon Rene Hidding MP	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
The Hon Peter Chandler MLA	Minister for Transport; and Infrastructure (Northern Territory)
Minister Shane Rattenbury MLA	Minister for Justice (Australian Capital Territory)
The Hon Craig Foss MP (representing Hon Simon Bridges)	Associate Minister of Transport (New Zealand)
Mayor Troy Pickard	President (Australian Local Government Association)