



Transport and Infrastructure Council

Communiqué

SYDNEY

FRIDAY, 9 November 2018

The 10th meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council) was held in Sydney today. The Council comprises Transport, Infrastructure and Planning ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

Representatives from Australasian Railway Association, Australian Automobile Association, Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association, Australian Logistics Council, Australian Trucking Association, Bus Industry Confederation, Roads Australia, Ports Australia, Australasian Centre for Rail Innovation, Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency and the Rail Industry Safety Standards Board also attended a session of the meeting.

The Council acknowledged the significant contribution of Mr Paul Retter AM as Chief Executive of the National Transport Commission.

ROAD SAFETY

The co-Chairs of the independent Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy, Associate Professor Jeremy Woolley and Dr John Crozier, gave a presentation to Ministers on their final report and recommendations.

Council welcomed the Inquiry findings and recognised the effort and work of the Inquiry Panel in completing the report. Ministers discussed and considered the report's findings, acknowledging that several of the recommendations will require a coordinated effort across governments.

Ministers discussed the new national road safety governance review that was announced earlier this month by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP. The review, to be undertaken jointly by the Commonwealth, States and Territories, responds to recommendation six of the Inquiry and will inform a response to many of the other recommendations.

Council agreed to establish a working group to progress the report's recommendations. All jurisdictions agreed to work with the Commonwealth to develop an implementation plan focused on the Inquiry's recommendations for consideration by ministers at the first Council meeting in 2019.

Council noted that the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) Statistical Progress Report for 2017, outlining national and jurisdictional performance outcomes, was published on the NRSS website.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Ministers discussed governments' significant infrastructure programs and how best to support capacity in the construction industry to deliver the substantial infrastructure pipeline across the nation over coming years. In this context, Council discussed the benefits of greater market participation from Tier 2 and Tier 3 contractors.

Opportunities for shared initiatives and learning were explored by ministers, supported by an expert panel discussion led by Mr Jim Betts, CEO of Infrastructure NSW. This included consideration of the *NSW Government Action Plan: A ten point commitment to the construction sector* and a report on findings from the recent Australian Government construction industry roundtables.

Ministers acknowledged issues being raised by industry, including the importance of developing market capacity, improving procurement processes and adopting more market-responsive approaches to risk allocation, and improving skills and training.

Council endorsed the following high-level principles, reflecting the importance of issues raised in the discussion and the commitment by all jurisdictions to work with industry to foster the sustainable development of the sector, with a focus on initiatives attracting and retaining women in trades and in leadership roles within the sector.

- Collaborative-based approaches to procurement, project management and risk allocation promotes safer and more productive delivery.
- Undertaking best practice on bidding, contracting and procurement streamlines processes and reduces costs.
- Rewarding safety performance as well as improvements in security and timeliness of contract payments builds industry confidence and accountability.
- Publication of the pipeline of projects stimulates industry preparedness and increases competition in bidders.
- Joined up approaches for development and delivery of training maximises workforce participation.
- Industry diversity, including greater female participation in the workforce, improves results.
- Packaging procurement activities to match market appetite and capabilities maximises market responses and value for money.

Ministers also agreed to report back to Council in 12 months on actions taken by jurisdictions to support the high-level principles.

ROAD MARKET REFORM

Ministers discussed the continued work on heavy vehicle road reform. To advance these reforms, Council agreed to develop a nationally consistent service level standard for roads, to categorise roads by their function and set customer-focussed service levels for each road category. This will improve transparency for road users and provide an evidence-base for road investment decisions.



Council requested jurisdictions to return in 2019 with advice on heavy vehicle road reform options, including advice on implementation. The focus will be on developing a package of measures to deliver benefits for industry, with further consultation to occur on elements of the reforms. The advice will look at road funding reform, independent price regulation and a forward-looking cost base, while considering the needs of users of less-travelled roads. Council agreed to work with the Council on Federal Financial Relations on the reforms in 2019.

Council noted the work of the National Transport Commission on testing the feasibility of establishing a forward-looking cost base, with further work on this to occur in 2019.

TRANSPORT REGULATION

Council endorsed Terms of Reference for a Productivity Commission Review of Transport Reforms scheduled to commence in 2019.

Council also agreed to a number of legislative and regulation amendments to Heavy Vehicle and Rail Safety national laws, updating the Australian Defence Force Exemption Framework, increasing permissible mass limits for three axle buses, and endorsing the draft Bill for rail-based drug and alcohol management provisions.

Ministers discussed the final report of the Review of Oversize Overmass Access Arrangements and noted work already underway. Ministers also discussed identifying early actions to improve current arrangements, particularly if it would support farmers in drought affected areas.

Ministers today reaffirmed their commitment to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and its national mandate. As part of ensuring improved safety, reducing regulatory red tape and keeping costs to a minimum, Ministers also agreed to undertake an independent assurance review to assess options for how regulatory services are delivered. The review will report at Council's first meeting in 2019.

LOW AND ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

Council discussed the opportunities and benefits for Australia from a coordinated national approach to encourage the introduction of low and zero emission vehicles, particularly electric vehicles. It was agreed the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee will develop a program of work to address the barriers and challenges impeding the uptake of these vehicles for Council consideration in the first half of 2019. This work could include initiatives to support infrastructure development, measures to reduce upfront costs and increase model availability, and programs to educate and improve the awareness of consumers of the benefits of shifting to low emission vehicles, while acknowledging the need for a market-based response.

AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS

Ministers also welcomed the release of the Australian Transport Economic Accounts by the ABS on 31 October 2018, which, for the first time, brings together in one account the full contribution that transport activity makes to the Australian economy.



NATIONAL AIRPORT SAFEGUARDING FRAMEWORK

A new Guideline on Public Safety Areas (PSAs) was agreed by ministers as part of the National Airport Safeguarding Framework. PSAs are designated areas of land at the end of airport runways within which certain planning restrictions may apply.

The new PSA Guideline was developed to mitigate the risk of on-ground fatalities from an aircraft incident, by informing a consistent approach to land use at the end of Australian airport runways.

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSION AND SUPPORT TO COUNCIL

Ministers acknowledged the completion by Mr Blair Comley PSM of the review of the National Transport Commission (NTC) and support arrangements for the Council. Council reiterated their appreciation for the important work of NTC and the support provided by TISOC enabling the strategic direction of Council.



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The Hon Michael McCormack MP	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Commonwealth)
The Hon Melinda Pavey MP	Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight (New South Wales)
The Hon Mark Bailey MP	Minister for Transport and Roads (Queensland)
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning; Lands (Western Australia)
The Hon Stephan Knoll MP	Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government; Planning (South Australia)
The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
The Hon Meegan Fitzharris MLA	Minister for Transport and City Services (Australian Capital Territory)
The Hon Shane Rattenbury MLA	Minister for Road Safety (Australian Capital Territory)
Mayor David O'Loughlin	President (Australian Local Government Association)

