



Communiqué

April 2010

34th Industry Advisory Group Meeting

The NTC hosted its first Industry Advisory Group meeting for 2010 in Sydney on 13 April. The Chairman, Commissioners, Chief Executive and Executives of the NTC met with key industry stakeholders, including representatives from road transport, unions, rail, ports, vehicle manufacturing, transport customers and other leading industry associations. The objective was to share information on current NTC projects and forward work programme, and to gain insight into industry views.

IAG meetings provide stakeholders with the opportunity to be briefed on current or upcoming NTC work, and to share their views with other stakeholders.

Slides presented at the meeting are available at www.ntc.gov.XXXXXXX.

NTC REVIEW OUTCOMES

Nick Dimopoulos, CEO, outlined the approach taken by the NTC to give effect to the outcomes of the NTC Review. The key themes of the review included a focus on priority COAG projects, becoming a “centre of excellence” for reform, and working with governments to develop viable implementation plans. To give effect to the outcomes of the review, NTC has prioritised its work programme into eleven “high order” projects (i.e. COAG priorities, existing ATC reforms and core functions such as reform maintenance and reviews). Stakeholders noted the reform objectives of safety, productivity and environmental outcomes were incorporated across the whole work programme.

COAG PRIORITY PROJECTS

Council of Australian Governments Road Reform Plan

Stakeholders were informed of progress on the work in the NTC’s Pricing work stream, and noted the range of pricing options under consideration, including mass-distance location-based charging. An overview of recent NTC research into European charging structures and pricing methodologies was provided, and stakeholders were updated on the direction of the overarching COAG Road Reform Project.

Rail Regulation

The NTC’s role in supporting the establishment of a national rail safety regulator is in developing the national law, including major policy issues such as drugs and alcohol and fatigue. A regulatory impact statement supporting the national law will be developed and released for consultation later in 2010. Stakeholders noted the national regulator would be hosted in South Australia, and that a project director had been appointed to establish the regulator. Stakeholders expressed the need for a clear distinction between the national occupational health and safety laws and the rail safety regime.

Heavy Vehicle Regulation

Stakeholders noted progress in the NTC work on developing the national legislation to support the national heavy vehicle regulator, including completing a stocktake of relevant state and territory legislation and resolving differences to achieve a single body of law. A regulatory impact statement is expected to be released for public consultation in late 2010.

STRATEGIC ITEMS

Heavy Vehicle Access – Performance Based Standards (PBS)

Stakeholders were advised that public consultation for the draft regulatory impact statement was under way. It contains an evaluation of institutional arrangements and access, and options for technical enhancements to the scheme, including modular assessment and approval and industry based self-certification. The preferred option for the future operation of PBS is for national assessment and access using the national heavy vehicle regulator.

Telematics Strategy

A draft in-vehicle telematics strategy is being finalised for public consultation, including draft policies for on-board mass compliance and electronic work diaries. The proposed principles of the draft strategy include private sector innovation, policy certainty, voluntary uptake, national consistency, and standards that are public, transparent and performance-based. Telematics could benefit reforms relating to regulatory compliance and government interventions to support supply chain collaboration. Stakeholders highlighted the need for existing technology to be recognised as a replacement for paper-based work diaries.

Supply Chain Strategy (Rail Productivity, Ports Strategy)

Stakeholders were provided an overview of the elements of a forthcoming Rail Productivity discussion paper to support long-term and efficient infrastructure investment and use.

Some themes arising from the national ports strategy, being developed by Infrastructure Australia and supported by NTC, included improving landside efficiency and reliability, clarity of roles and responsibilities, planning and implementation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Stakeholders noted that consultation was under way on the proposal for a technical modification to the heavy vehicle charges annual adjustment formula. A recommendation would be considered by the Australian Transport Council at its 30 April meeting.

Stakeholders expressed the need to clarify time counting rules for work diaries under Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Management. NTC is addressing this issue through maintenance of the reform.

ATTENDEES AT MEETING:

Greg Martin	Chair, Commissioner NTC
Dr Ian Johnston	Deputy Chair, Commissioner NTC
Bill Noonan	Commissioner NTC
Frank Muller	Commissioner NTC
Julie-Anne Schafer	Commissioner NTC
Nick Dimopoulos	CEO and Commissioner NTC
Lynne Habner	Chief Officer Corporate NTC
Paul Sullivan	Chief Officer Strategy NTC
Meena Naidu	Chief Officer Policy NTC
Jill Lewis	ATA NSW
Tony Davidson	Co-Chair Freight Logistics Council
David Fox	National Transport Manager, Shell
Michael Kilgariff	CEO, Australian Logistics Council
Sam Nelson	National Farmers Federation
Neil Aplin	Project Director, COAG Road Reform Plan
Phillip Crook	General Manager, Transport Regulation & Compliance, Toll
Ian Rolfe	CVIAA NSW
David Tan	CVIAA NSW
Gerard Waldron	ARRB
Brian Morris	Independent Railways of Australia
Sid Marris	Minerals Council of Australia
David Coonan	Australian Trucking Association
Kate Martin	Australian Trucking Association
John Morris	Director, NatRoad Ltd Incorporating Australian Road Train Association
Philip Halton	Australian Livestock Transporters Association
Craig Wickham	Woolworths Logistics
Garth Mulholland	TWU
Roger Jowett	RTBU

Apologies:

David Anderson	Ports Australia
Michael Apps	CEO, Bus Industry Confederation
Neil Chambers	Victorian Transport Association
Peter Garske	CEO, Queensland Trucking Association
Robin Phillips	Tasmanian Transport Association
James Hurnall	Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
Ian Webb	CE, Roads Australia
Chris Lowe	Bus Association Victoria
David Simon	Chairman, Australian Trucking Association
Stuart St Clair	CEO, Australian Trucking Association
John Gillespie	Gillespie's Crane Services
Bernie Belacic	CEO, NatRoad Ltd Incorporating Australian Road Train Association
Steve Heraghty	Independent Railways of Australia
Rod Pickette	MUA
Ian King	Transport Forum WA
Peter Moore	International Assoc of Public Transport
Julie Anderson	Australian Automobile Association
Bryan Nye	Australasian Railways Association Inc.
Colin White	Isuzu Australia

Also invited:

Rob Perkins	National Bulk Tankers Association
Scott Grenda	Chair, Bus Industry Confederation
David Tape	Queensland Bus Industry Council
Philip Lovell	Victorian Transport Association
Andrew Thomas	Aust Rail, Tram and Bus Industry Union
Kary Petersen	Tourism & Transport Forum
Terry Warin	ITS Australia
Ashley Morrow	Australia Post
Tony Sheldon	TWU
Tony McMullan	CEO, Truck Industry Council
Eric Willemse	Woolworths
Steve Shearer	South Australian Road Transport Association