

OUTCOMES OF MEETING NO. 49

NTC Offices, Melbourne

8:30am, Wednesday 2 March 2011

PRESENT: Greg Martin, Chair
Ian Johnston, Deputy Chair
Frank Muller, Commissioner
Bill Noonan, Commissioner
Julie-Anne Schafer, Commissioner
Nick Dimopoulos, Commissioner and CEO

CEO'S REPORT

Mr Dimopoulos presented the CEO's report to Commissioners. Issues covered in the CEO's report included:

- National Rail Safety Regulation – The NTC project team is working closely with all stakeholders including the National Project Office (NPO) to mitigate the project risks, including failing to resolve the outstanding policy issues and the Expert Panel failing to meet its deliverables. The Expert Panel is due to provide its final report for the ATC meeting on 20 May 2011. The recommendations will be incorporated into the RIS for further consultation after ATC approval.
- National Heavy Vehicle Regulation – the draft regulatory impact statement (RIS) and exposure laws were released for public consultation on schedule on 28 February 2011. Key messages for the draft RIS include the role of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator as a centralised system to administer heavy vehicles, it is expected to be operational on 1 January 2013, and it will bring \$12.4 billion worth of savings via centralised heavy vehicle registration and compliance systems. The NTC and the national project office will run information forums throughout Australia during March and April 2011 for heavy vehicle stakeholders.

The project team joined Commissioners for a discussion on progress, and Commissioners congratulated the staff involved on meeting this significant milestone.

- COAG Road Reform Plan – the COAG Road Reform Plan (CRRP) team is consulting with local governments in March 2010 on potential changes to the way in which road funds could flow back differently to local roads and governments, and is engaging with treasuries, via road agencies, about the way in which road funds flow to road agencies. NTC's contribution to the feasibility report includes the development of models to evaluate the transport sector benefit from alternative pricing models. A marginal cost paper, which underpins the work on feasibility, has been developed for external release

(in conjunction with Austroads) in March/April 2010. The draft feasibility report due in mid-2011 will incorporate pricing analysis, the benefits of linking revenue back to actual expenditure on roads, and business system costs.

- Heavy vehicle telematics strategy – The draft National In-Vehicle Telematics Strategy was provided to the Network Planning Standing Sub-committee (NPSSC) for final comment before being finalised for SCOT and ATC. The draft policy paper for Electronic Systems for Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue and Speed Compliance, the Austroads draft Performance-based Specification for Electronic Work Diary and Heavy Vehicle Speed Monitoring underwent public consultation from October to December 2010. The paper will be submitted to the 31 March SCOT meeting before submission to ATC. NSW is leading a 2 year national pilot program to resolve implementation issues and demonstrate the effectiveness of electronic record keeping. NTC is represented on both the Steering Committee and Management Committee of this project, and will work closely with the NSW RTA to ensure that the outcomes of the pilot can be translated into a smooth roll-out of necessary regulatory and operational structures.
- Maintenance and review – The 9th Package of amendments to the Australian Road Rules has been finalised, and an accompanying implementation plan in conjunction with States and Territories is being finalised. Progress was reported on other maintenance projects including the 7th Package of amendments to the Australian Vehicle Standards Rules, the revised edition of *Assessing Fitness to Drive*, revision of the *Rail Medical Standards*, the 1st Package of amendments to the Australian Defence Force Exemption Framework, and the review of implementation of the 7th edition of the *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail*.
- Fatigue maintenance - A review of Basic Fatigue Management (BFM) considered a number of potential amendments, which included extension of night hours, split rests, and a 14 day cycle. The expert panel are expected to provide final details of their Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM) proposal to ATC by April 2011. In relation to the counting time enforcement update, the fatigue maintenance group could not agree on the approach to address inconsistency, so the NTC will convene an industry group to ‘test’ and/or produce proposals. An update on the counting time issue will be published on the NTC website before the end of February 2011.
- National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 – NTC responded to the draft strategy, commending the draft for enshrining the Safe System approach as the basis for future road safety improvements, and noting that the proposed target reduction of 30% in road users killed and seriously injured over the next decade should be more ambitious to match the targets being pursued by developed countries who are already performing better than Australia in providing a safe road network.
- Annual Adjustment of Heavy Vehicle Charges – The NTC released the annual adjustment consultation document in early February 2011, which outlined that an annual adjustment of 2.4% should apply on 1 July 2011 to heavy vehicle charges. NTC is aware of industry issues with the recent significant increases in the lead trailer (or first trailer) in a B-double combination and is establishing a pricing maintenance project (as part of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator project) to address this issue.
- Ports and Freight Strategy – the Commonwealth Minister announced the release of

Infrastructure Australia's (IA) discussion paper on a National Land Freight Strategy in February 2011. The key themes identified in the discussion paper included national planning, interoperability, pricing, access, governance and performance reporting.

NTC STRATEGIC PLAN, 2011/12 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Commissioners provided feedback on the draft NTC Strategic Plan, 2011/12 Work Program and Budget in preparation for presenting it to SCOT and submitting it to ATC for approval in April. Subject to the adjustments suggested, Commissioners approved the strategic plan and work program.

PERFORMANCE BASED STANDARDS REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Commissioners considered the final draft of the regulatory impact statement, including changes made following public consultation.

Commissioners emphasised the importance of implementation planning for this reform, and endorsed the submission of the final regulatory impact statement to ATC for approval following presentation to SCOT in March.

WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT JANUARY 2011

Commissioners considered the progress report for January 2011 including key risks and mitigating actions.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS AND CURRENT ISSUES

Commissioners accepted the reports on events including meetings with Alan Tesch, Queensland Transport and Main Roads, and the Western Transport Alliance, and advice received from the Western Australian Minister for Transport that he will be the voting ATC Minister for NTC matters.

RECENTLY RELEASED REPORTS

Commissioners noted that, since the last Commission meeting, a paper on heavy vehicle charges annual adjustment was released for public consultation, and media releases were issued on the draft national road safety strategy, release of the national ports strategy, and Christmas road safety.