

AGREEMENT

between

AUSTROADS

and

NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSION



PREAMBLE

Austroads

Austroads is the association of Australasian road transport and traffic agencies.

Austroads' purpose is to improve Australian and New Zealand transport outcomes by:

- providing expert technical input to national road and transport policy development
- improving the practices and capability of road agencies
- promoting operational consistency by road agencies.

Austroads membership comprises the six Australian state and two territory road transport and traffic authorities, the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport, the Australian Local Government Association and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

National Transport Commission

The National Transport Commission (NTC) is an inter-governmental agency charged with improving the productivity, safety, environmental performance and regulatory efficiency of Australia's road, rail and intermodal transport system.

As an independent statutory body, the NTC develops and submits strategic policy/regulatory reform options for approval to the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council); which comprises federal, state and territory transport, infrastructure and planning ministers. The NTC also plays an important role in implementation planning to ensure reform outcomes are realised on the ground, as well as coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and maintaining the implementation of approved reforms.

CONTEXT

Austroads has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) for delivering research, technical and operational guidance projects to support national reform, where Austroads is identified as the suitable vehicle for delivery.

The NTC's options for national policy/regulatory and heavy vehicle charging reform are also considered by TISOC members, prior to proceeding to the Council for decision.

Our respective activities both inform, and are informed by, each other's areas of expertise.

A closely co-ordinated working relationship between Austroads and the NTC is important for the success of road transport regulatory reform. State and territory road transport authorities together with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator have primary responsibility for implementing road transport regulatory reform.

Ultimately, the combined work of Austroads and the NTC aims to positively impact all road users.

PURPOSE

This agreement is designed to:

- ensure our work programs are aligned and dependencies are mapped and sequenced effectively
- identify the respective roles of Austroads and the NTC in the research, policy development and implementation of road transport regulatory reform
- provide a framework for the development and implementation of road transport regulatory and operational reform in Australia.

SCOPE

Research

Research on road transport issues is undertaken by a number of agencies both within Australasia and internationally. The NTC draws on this research in performing its role in policy development. Where gaps in research are identified, the NTC will explore a range of possible mechanisms for obtaining the necessary research results. This may include projects undertaken by or with Austroads.

The NTC will work closely with Austroads to identify forward research requirements and opportunities. This includes providing input into the development of Austroads strategic plan and into the development of annual work programs.

Similarly, Austroads will participate in the annual development of the NTC work program.

Austroads and the NTC will share research obtained externally where relevant.

Policy development

The primary responsibility of the NTC is the development of recommendations for national policy/regulatory reform, for consideration by the Council. Austroads, as a key stakeholder, will have input into developing the NTC's policies on transport regulation and operational reform, mainly through research projects.

Implementation

The NTC has a responsibility to jointly develop implementation plans for approved reforms with the relevant entities responsible for implementation.

States and territory road transport authorities together with the NHVR play the primary role in the implementation of road transport regulatory reforms.

Where agreed, Austroads and the NTC will work together to produce guidelines and other supporting material to ensure that implementation of regulations by agencies is practical and achieves the policy objectives.

Operational matters

Austroads and the NTC will collaborate on operational matters, including technical issues and any potential inconsistencies. The NTC will be invited to nominate representatives to the relevant Austroads task forces and working groups. NTC representatives will be full members of task forces and working groups.

Where unpublished Austroads material or information may be usefully referred to or included in an NTC project, the NTC may seek the approval of the Austroads Chief Executive to utilise this material or information. The Austroads Chief Executive may determine conditions on which the material is made available.

Joint projects

From time to time Austroads and the NTC may jointly undertake projects.

Any projects that either Austroads or the NTC seeks to propose as joint projects will need to be considered in the development of Austroads work program with input from jurisdictions through relevant task forces. Where projects are initiated by TISOC, Council or COAG, these would be given priority and incorporated into Austroads work program subject to funds being available.

Arrangements for these projects including funding by each organisation, project management and other resource commitments will be determined on a case by case basis.

Confidentiality and intellectual property of joint projects

Aside from engagement in consultation as part of the project development, all project material associated with joint projects must remain confidential until both Austroads and the NTC agree to its release.

Austroads and the NTC share the rights to all intellectual property related to joint projects.

CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive of Austroads and the Chief Executive of the NTC, or their nominees, will confer at least twice annually and generally ahead of Austroads Board meetings/TISOC meetings, to coordinate activities between the two organisations.

VARIATION

This Agreement may be varied by both parties agreeing. Any such variation shall be set out in writing and signed by both parties.

DURATION

The terms of this Agreement between Austroads and the NTC shall be from the date of signing until 30 June 2019.


TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

Austrroads or the NTC may terminate this agreement at any time after giving 6 months' written notice to the other party. Austrroads and the NTC may jointly agree to terminate this agreement at any time.



Chairman, Austroads

Date 7.7.2016



Chief Executive, NTC

Date 12.7.2016