

# **Memorandum of understanding**

**between**

**AUSTROADS**

**and**

**NATIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSION**

**2020 – 2024**



*Austroads*

# 1. Introduction

---

## 1.1 Background

An effective closely co-ordinated working partnership 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.

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

The NTC develops and delivers options for national policy/regulatory and heavy vehicle charging reform for consideration by ITSOC members, prior to proceeding to the Infrastructure and Transport Ministerial Meeting (ITMM) for decision.

Our respective activities both inform, and are informed by, each other's areas of expertise to progress the national land transport reform agenda.

Ultimately, the integrated program outcomes provided by Austrroads and the NTC, guided by the reform priorities of ITMM, aim to positively impact all road users.

## 1.2 Purpose

This agreement is designed to:

- ensure our work programs are aligned and dependencies are mapped and sequenced effectively
- identify the respective roles of Austrroads 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.

# 2. Roles

---

## 2.1 National Transport Commission

The NTC leads national land transport reform in support of Australian governments to improve safety, productivity, environmental outcomes, provide for future technologies and improve regulatory efficiency.

The *National Transport Commission Act 2003* (the NTC Act) and the Inter-Governmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Road, Rail and Intermodal Transport (IGA) establish the NTC and define its role. The NTC has a legislative requirement to develop, monitor and maintain uniform or nationally consistent regulatory and operational arrangements for road, rail and intermodal transport.

As a key contributor to the national reform agenda, the NTC is accountable to Commonwealth, state and territory ministers responsible for transport and infrastructure who make up membership of the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM). The

NTC works closely with ITMM's advisory body, the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials' Committee (ITSOC), which includes the heads of Commonwealth, state and territory agencies.

## **2.2 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, Transport Regional Development and Communications, the Australian Local Government Association and the New Zealand Transport Agency.

## **3. Scope**

---

### **3.1 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.

### **3.2 Policy development**

The primary responsibility of the NTC is the development of recommendations for national land transport policy/regulatory reform, for consideration by the Infrastructure and Transport Ministerial Meeting (ITMM).

Austroads, as a key stakeholder, will provide technical data, evidence and advice, and participate in developing the NTC's policy proposals on transport regulation and operational reform, mainly through research projects.

### **3.3 Implementation**

The NTC monitors the implementation and effectiveness of agreed reforms and must report regularly to ITMM. As part of this process, it also 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.

### **3.4 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.

### **3.5 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 ITSOC, ITMM or National Cabinet and/or National Federation Reform Council (NFRC), 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.

### **3.6 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.

### **3.7 Consultation**

The Chief Executive of Austroads and the Chief Executive of the NTC, or their nominees, will meet twice annually ahead of Austroads Board meetings/ITSOC meetings, to coordinate activities between the two organisations.

### **3.8 Variation**

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

### **3.9 Duration**

The terms of this Agreement between Austroads and the NTC shall be from the date of signing until 30 June 2024.

### **3.10 Termination of agreement**

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



**Dr Geoff Allan**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Austroads  
17 November 2020



**Dr Gillian Miles**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Transport Commission  
18 November 2020