

National Vehicle Data Working Group 2024-25

Purpose

The National Vehicle Data Working Group (“the Working Group”) is a national forum for advancing the road safety benefits of sharing vehicle and transport data. Its members will seek out opportunities and strategic pathways for vehicle generated and road transport data to support positive road safety outcomes.

The goals of the Working Group are:

1. To build relationships between governments, OEMs and data aggregators.
2. To develop a common, trusted understanding of vehicle generated and road transport data sources and data flows.
3. To foster collaboration in identifying and realizing opportunities to improve road safety with data.

Background

In November 2020, the National Transport Commission (NTC) released its policy paper on Government Access to Vehicle-Generated Data.¹ This paper explored opportunities for Australia to harness a range of benefits through vehicle and road operator data. It recommended the establishment of a joint industry- government Vehicle Generated Data Working Group. This approach was supported by industry and government stakeholders.

Scope

Data in scope includes vehicle-generated data as well as road operator data, specifically data suited for long range communications (such as 4G and 5G data). Data designed for short-range communications (such as C-ITS) is not in scope. The Working Group will explore potential uses of data for supporting outcomes for public benefit, mainly in relation to improving road safety for all road users.

The Working Group will consider its work program within the broader stakeholder and industry environment, including complementary work being undertaken by other bodies, such as the National Freight Data Hub and Austroads. Environmental scanning will be discussed to support the Working Group in identifying gaps and avoiding overlap with existing work programs led by other groups and parties.

¹ See <https://www.ntc.gov.au/transport-reform/ntc-projects/government-access-vehicle-generated-data>.

Principles

In its work, the Working Group will be guided by the following principles:

- There should be a commitment to realizing enduring, positive outcomes for customers and the public
- We will focus on usable, testable, tangible outputs, with a clearly articulated customer or public benefit
- Data must be safe and secure, and people must consent to the collection and use of their data and have their privacy protected
- Data collection should be the minimum required to demonstrate and realise defined benefits
- Data should be exchanged on mutually beneficial terms
- We will maintain a bias to open-standards, interoperability, modular, scalable and future-proof solutions
- We will seek national consistency and international alignment, while taking into consideration uniquely Australian conditions
- Members acknowledge the different perspectives and motivations of other members

Co-Chairs

The Working Group is Co-Chaired by one industry and one government Co-Chair. The key responsibilities of the Co-Chairs are to: i) lead the Working Group in exploring opportunities, challenges and strategy development; and ii) represent the Working Group to broader stakeholder groups.

The Co-Chairs will be expected to:

- Set the agenda for Working Group meetings.
- Review the materials provided to Working Group members.
- Conduct effective Working Group discussions, including attempting to resolve differences of opinion by consensus, and development of workable paths forward.
- Represent the Working Group, and/or present Working Group outcomes, to other stakeholders as required.

Membership

Membership consists of representatives of:

- Relevant government agencies in all Australian jurisdictions
- Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI)
- Automobile manufacturers as nominated by the FCAI
- Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Australia
- Austroads (Observer)

As working group activities progress, further members may be invited to join the Working Group representing:

- Other peak bodies for heavy and light vehicle industries
- Heavy vehicle manufacturers
- Organisations with expertise in vehicle data that are not vehicle manufacturers

- Transport Certification Australia
- Road user advocacy groups
- Telematics companies
- Private road operator

Secretariat

The NTC will provide secretariat support to the meetings. This includes:

- Developing an agenda for each meeting with Co-Chairs.
- Co-ordination and preparation of meetings papers.
- Taking of minutes.
- Communication of meeting outcomes.
- Scheduling of meetings.
- Monitoring progress of any actions or projects agreed by the Working Group.

The NTC Secretariat will provide progress reports on the Working Group's activities to the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials' Committee (ITSOC) on key milestones of the group.

Meeting Frequency, Duration and Decision Making of Working Group

The proposed meeting frequency is quarterly. The proposed duration is two years. This could be extended if required to meet the Working Group's purpose and based on the feedback of members.

Any recommendations made by the group to Ministers or ITSOC is proposed to be by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Co-Chairs may elect to put a decision on the proposed recommendations to vote to members for a majority decision. Any decisions on proposed recommendations would require a majority of members.

Quorum for the Working Group is at least 50% of members present.

Outcomes and outputs from the group do not constitute government policy. Any recommendations requiring change to government policy or legislation would need to be agreed through the appropriate decision-making mechanisms.

Review of and changes to the Terms of Reference and Membership

Members may review and agree amendments to the Terms of Reference from time to time. The Terms of Reference should be reviewed by the Working Group as needed to accommodate changes agreed by the group.

The Co-Chairs may invite additional members to join the group from time to time. The Co-Chairs may invite expert speakers to join individual meetings as required.