



Government Access to Vehicle Generated Data

Austroads submission to the National Transport
Commission's discussion paper

July 2020



Introduction

The purpose of the submission

Austrroads' submission to the National Transport Commission's (NTC) discussion paper *Government Access to Vehicle Generated Data* answers to questions posed by the NTC and updates the NTC on the potential role Austrroads could play in the collection, storage and transmission of data between vehicles and government agencies.

Austrroads is not a policy agency. We do not seek to reflect on the policy options available. Any proposed new policy or law can only achieve its goal if well implemented. Austrroads is well placed to advise on the potential implementation of policy choices and assist with implementation. Therefore, our comments are limited to issues surrounding the practicality of implementing certain policy options.

About Austrroads

Austrroads is the collective of the Australian and New Zealand transport agencies, representing all levels of government. Austrroads' purpose is to support our member organisations to deliver an improved Australasian road transport network. We commission and undertake road and transport research which underpins our input to policy development and published guidance on the design, construction and management of the road network and its associated infrastructure.

We provide high-quality, practical and impartial advice, information, tools and services to help our members to deliver efficient, reliable and safe mobility to their customers.

Austrroads also includes the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information Service (NEVDIS) and Transport Certification Australia (TCA).

NEVDIS exchanges information about vehicles and driver licenses across state borders. Its primary purpose is to prevent fraud and theft by ensuring 'one vehicle, one Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)' and 'one person, one driver licence'. The service enables road authorities to interact across state borders and directly supports the transport and automotive industries. In addition to information supplied by road agencies, NEVDIS collects VIN data for compliance from vehicle wholesalers and stolen information from police. It also provides information to public and private sector organisations to facilitate provenance checking on vehicles, matching of biographic details on licenses, motor insurance underwriting and vehicle safety recalls.

TCA is a national organisation that provides assurance services relating to transport technologies and data to enable improved public purpose outcomes from road transport. Priority outcome areas enabled by our services include improved road safety, transport efficiency, freight productivity, asset management and sustainability. TCA administers the National Telematics Framework which is a digital business platform consisting of infrastructure and rules that support an open marketplace of telematics and related intelligent technology providers.

Austrroads comments on the Government access to vehicle-generated data report

Austrroads has not endeavoured to respond to all the questions posed in the discussion paper. Many of those questions are best answered by the individual transport agencies that own Austrroads. We have provided answers to areas that are relevant to current and potential future services provided by Austrroads and its businesses, NEVDIS and TCA.

Response to the issues highlighted in the report relevant to Austrroads

Problem and opportunity statements outlined in the report.

Austrroads commends the NTC on the development of the discussion paper. Austrroads believes that the problem and opportunity statements outlined in the report define the key problems and opportunities associated with government access to vehicle generated data.

Support for the establishment of a Data Taskforce

The new Austrroads Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 specifically highlights a role for our organisation in supporting members to build data management capabilities of their staff and provide systems that harmonise data collection and analysis

Austrroads supports the establishment of similar organisation to the European Union's Data Taskforce that would work closely with government and industry to establish data standards and communication protocols. The Australasian Data Taskforce would work closely with colleagues in Europe, the United Nations and the International Standards Organisation to harmonise Australia and New Zealand's government access to vehicle generated data and vehicle manufacturer access to road agency generated data.

Austrroads is willing to take a leadership role in facilitating the establishment and maintenance of an Australasian Data Taskforce. It is suggested that New Zealand government and industry organisations also be invited to provide representatives on the taskforce.

The adoption of Extended Vehicle (ExVe) web services standards

Austrroads supports international harmonisation for connected and automated vehicles and their supporting systems. The Australian new vehicle market makes up less than one percent of global new car sales annually. There is general agreement at Austrroads that as a nation we should also seek to align with Europe given that around 95 per cent of new light vehicles imported into Australia are built for Europe.

Austrroads supports further exploration around the benefits and costs of using the ExVe suite of standards being developed by the International Standards Organisation (ISO). Potential benefits of the adoption of ExVe include reported support by many manufacturers, embedded privacy and cybersecurity protections.

Establishment of a National Data Broker

Austrroads agrees that there is value in establishing a national data broker or trusted broker. It is unlikely that developing individual data management practices and processes with individual government agencies would be practical or achievable. Austrroads, through its NEVDIS and TCA businesses, is in a strong position to assist in the initial piloting of such as service for stakeholders. Both NEVDIS and TCA have extensive experience in providing data brokerage services with NEVDIS processing more than 245 million trusted transactions annually.

Road Safety Data as a priority

Austrroads supports the NTC's position of prioritising road safety related data access for government. Road Safety programs aim to reduce the incidence and severity of road crashes to all users of our road transport system.

Road related trauma is a significant cause of death and injury in our communities and a massive drain on the economy. In the 12-month period up until the end of May 2020, 1,117 people lost their lives as a result of a road crash. In addition to the number of lives lost to road trauma the National Injury Surveillance Unit reported almost 39,000 crash related hospital admissions in 2016. The Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 reported that road crashes cost the Australian economy more than \$30 billion annually.

With around 66% of road deaths occurring in a regional or remote area vehicle generated data has the potential to provide a rich source of data for road safety practitioners starved of the information provided through infrastructure based sensors embedded in our larger city's road network. A 2019 Austrroads report linking more than 30,000 non-fatal crashes to hospital admissions found that more than 30% of crashes were not recorded in the jurisdictions' crash data bases. Missing crash location data can have a significant impact in identifying high risk crash locations and routes and on the development of countermeasure business cases.

Austrroads supports the NTC's view that vehicle owners and manufacturers are more likely to support exchanging data for road safety purposes. However, we also expect that customers providing data to government agencies also expect that agencies will provide road safety related data such as speed limits, incident and road hazard warnings back to drivers and vehicles. The current Austrroads project Road Authority Data for Connected and Automated Vehicles is exploring this concept and is due to report back findings by July 2021.

Austrroads is willing to support further research into the costs, benefits and mechanisms for reciprocal sharing of road safety related data between vehicles and road transport agencies.

Consideration of the introduction eCall into Australia

Austrroads supports the NTC proposal to further investigate the benefits of eCall for Australia. Since April 2018, all new light vehicles sold in Europe must be fitted with eCall. According to the European Commission (EC) the technology will cut emergency service response time by 50% in the countryside and 60% in built-up areas. However, according to the Commission/s impact assessment on eCall, it will take until 2034 before all cars in the EU are fitted with the system.

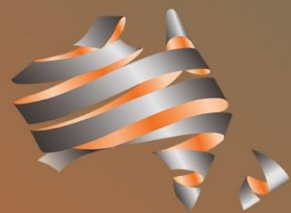
Austrroads is not aware of any substantial body of research on the effectiveness of eCall for Australasia and would support further research into the costs and benefits of the technology before considering legislation to require its fitment to vehicles.

Conclusions

Austroads and its businesses National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information Service (NEVDIS) and Transport Certification Australia (TCA) are in a position to play an important role as a trusted broker and national data aggregator in any future system that allows government to access vehicle generated data for road safety purposes.

Austroads is already undertaking research to understand how road agencies could provide data back to vehicles to provide safer, more efficient and sustainable road-based journeys for the customers of our transport agencies.

We welcome further discussions with the NTC on how we can support data sharing between vehicles and government agencies.



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