



# INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

FRIDAY, 28 May 2021

---

The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of Infrastructure and Transport Ministers was held today via teleconference. Membership comprises Infrastructure, Transport and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

Ministers welcomed written submissions from the Australian Airports Association, Australasian Automobile Association, Australian Constructors Association, Roads Australia and the Australasian Railway Association.

Noting the productivity and profitability increased gender balance delivers, Ministers agreed to take action at a national level to support increased participation by women in the transport sector. They asked senior officials to be ambitious and move swiftly reporting back to a follow-up meeting of Ministers before the end of the year.

Ministers also endorsed new operating guidelines for the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting. The new guidelines respond to the Conran Review of COAG Councils and Ministerial Forums by reflecting more streamlined supports and focus on strategic decision making.

Ministers discussed opportunities for national co-ordination on uptake of zero emission vehicles and agreed this will become a standing strategic agenda item on future Ministers' Meetings.

## **MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER**

---

### *National Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030*

Ministers supported the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30 and accompanying fact sheets. The Strategy includes 2030 targets of:

- a 50 per cent reduction in fatalities, down to fewer than 571 (an approximate reduction in rate per capita of 55 per cent) and
- an interim 30 per cent reduction in serious injuries, down to fewer than 29,000 (an approximate reduction in rate per capita of 38 per cent).

Ministers agreed the draft National Road Safety Action Plan 2021-25 will undergo a short, targeted consultation process with key road safety stakeholders, before being considered by Ministers for endorsement. The Strategy and Action Plan are anticipated to be finalised and released in the coming months.

Ministers also noted that increased efforts are needed by all governments to reduce road trauma over the life of the Strategy and progress to Vision Zero by 2050.

## IMPROVING HEAVY VEHICLE PRODUCTIVITY

---

### *Heavy Vehicle Road Reform*

Ministers agreed on a pathway to reforms to how heavy vehicle charges are set and invested, that is a schedule of gateway decisions on specific reform elements, the first of which is scheduled for later in 2021.

[\(Pathway ahead-Heavy Vehicle Road Reform\)](#).

Those decisions will include whether to approve a framework for National Service Level Standards for roads, a governance model for reviewing road expenditure and setting heavy vehicle road use charges, and high-level principles for setting charges and distributing the revenue.

### *Heavy Vehicle National Law Review (the Review)*

Ministers received an update on the Heavy Vehicle National Law Review and thanked industry for their constructive engagement with the review to date. The perspectives of industry have played an important role in shaping the forward program of work that was agreed by Ministers. This program of work will be significantly progressed with final legislation to be presented to Ministers in mid-2023.

The National Transport Commission (NTC) will deliver more detailed advice to Ministers over the next 12 months on key areas of reform such as fatigue management, heavy vehicle access, increased use of higher productivity vehicles, assurance schemes, duties, and driver health.

Ministers discussed the significant reform opportunity presented by the review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law. Ministers agreed that options developed should be ambitious to realise the potential productivity and safety benefits for industry and the economy more broadly.

## MORE EFFICIENT AND RESILIENT FREIGHT AND SUPPLY CHAINS

---

### *National Urban Freight Planning Principles*

Ministers endorsed the [National Urban Freight Planning Principles](#) (the Principles), which will guide land use decision-making across all levels of government to improve planning for freight in metropolitan areas. The Principles will be utilised by all jurisdictions, with progress reported on annually through the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.

### *National Rail Action Plan*

Ministers noted the successful delivery of the National Rail Action Plan to date and committed to further work and funding over the next three years to support initiatives including:

- creating a National Rail Skills Hub to co-ordinate between state academies and industry initiatives to improve access and pathways to current and future rail skills needed to build and operate the national rail network
- priority rolling stock and infrastructure standards, a national rolling stock register and consideration of an approach to radio communications and



- an interoperability framework to improve the productivity and safe running of the national rail network and assist the compatibility between different technological and communications systems.

Ministers affirmed the importance of ongoing collaboration between governments and industry, to support longer term productivity and safety benefits for the rail sector.

## **FUTURE TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY**

---

### *Automated vehicles*

Ministers agreed a roadmap for implementing a national safety framework for automated vehicles, with the aim of having national regulatory arrangements in place by 2026.

Ministers agreed to the scope of work to review Australia's readiness for commercial deployment of automated vehicles with the NTC and Commonwealth reporting back to Ministers in May 2022.

Ministers also agreed state and territory governments will review existing enforcement powers, then work with the NTC to develop enforcement practices for automated vehicles, and report back to Ministers in November 2022.



## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

---

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>The Hon Michael McCormack MP</b> | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Commonwealth)               |
| <b>The Hon Scott Buchholz MP</b>    | Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport (Commonwealth)  |
| <b>The Hon Kevin Hogan MP</b>       | Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister (Commonwealth)   |
| <b>The Hon Andrew Constance MP</b>  | Minister for Transport and Roads (New South Wales)   |
| <b>The Hon Paul Toole MP</b>        | Minister for Regional Transport and Roads (New South Wales)  |
| <b>The Hon Jacinta Allan MP</b>     | Minister for Transport Infrastructure (Victoria)   |
| <b>The Hon Ben Carroll MP</b>       | Minister for Public Transport; Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)  |
| <b>The Hon Steven Miles MP</b>      | Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure Local Government and Planning (Queensland)              |
| <b>The Hon Mark Bailey MP</b>       | Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)   |
| <b>The Hon Corey Wingard MP</b>     | Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (South Australia)  |
| <b>The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA**</b>  | Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports (Western Australia)  |
| <b>The Hon Michael Ferguson MP</b>  | Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Tasmania)   |
| <b>The Hon Eva Lawler MLA</b>       | Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)   |
| <b>Chris Steel MLA</b>              | Minister for Transport and City Services; Minister for Skills Special Minister of State (Australian Capital Territory) |
| <b>Cr Linda Scott</b>               | President (Australian Local Government Association)  |

---

\*\* Minister Saffioti was an apology and was instead represented by the Ag/Director General of Transport, Peter Woronzow.

---

