



COMMUNIQUE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

Monday 11 August 2025

Infrastructure and Transport Ministers met today in Melbourne, Victoria.

Improving Interoperability of Rail Systems

Ministers agreed to the European Train Control Systems as the future technology pathway for National Network for Interoperability (NNI). In addition, they agreed that any future digital train control and signalling system introduced on the NNI is to comply with ETCS mandatory standards. This will improve productivity by providing more efficient access to rail networks by operators. Ministers also agreed a new Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board will become the industry led technical standards setting body, and endorsed progress on the National Pathway for streamlining rollingstock approvals.

Ministers endorsed a national approach to the procurement of passenger rolling stock to maximise local industry participation, grow manufacturing capability, and strengthen supply chain resilience. Ministers also agreed to consider a package of reform options to implement elements of the National Rail Procurement and Management Strategy, including nationally harmonised standards for manufacturing rolling stock.

A better Way to Set Heavy Vehicle Charges – Including a Forward-Looking Cost Base

Ministers agreed a preferred heavy vehicle charge increase of 6 per cent for 2026-27 under the current Pay As You Go charging model, noting the dissent of Queensland and the non-participation of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Ministers asked the National Transport Commission (NTC) to undertake public consultation on the proposed increase for 60 days, consistent with the *Fuel Tax Act 2006* (Cth). Alongside this, Ministers agreed, as a matter of priority, the NTC consult on a forward-looking cost base model as an alternative way to set heavy vehicle charges.

Decarbonisation of Transport and Infrastructure

Ministers noted the progress of the Infrastructure Decarbonisation Working Group and Decarbonisation of Transport Working Group under their respective work plans. Ministers agreed to develop a national decarbonisation policy framework for whole of life carbon. This framework, supported by a flexible approach to national implementation, will support carbon reduction across every phase of a transport infrastructure project, from early planning to operation and end-of-life.

Heavy Vehicle Licensing Update

Ministers considered the NTC's report on licensing and accreditation arrangements for heavy vehicle drivers. Ministers also noted Austroads is implementing the ITMM-agreed reforms to the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework.

Updating the National Voluntary Guidelines for Stevedore Landside Charges

Ministers endorsed the NTC to update the National Voluntary Guidelines for landside stevedore charges to include a new requirement for stevedore operators to implement price changes annually on 1 January. Ministers also agreed the NTC will work with jurisdictions to include empty container park operators in the Guidelines with similar requirements as stevedore operators. These changes will improve transparency of landside pricing and charging behaviour, maximising freight productivity as it looks to improve the efficiency of Australia's container freight supply chains.

Ministers also agreed the Infrastructure and Transport Senior Officials' Committee will establish a working group to explore options and recommended next steps in response to findings by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission concerning stevedore charges.

Personal Mobility Devices

Ministers observed that personal mobility devices bring a range of benefits to the Australian community, but also new risks that must be managed. Ministers noted work underway under the Australian Consumer Ministers Network to examine the safety of the lithium-ion batteries use in personal mobility devices and ongoing discussions between Commonwealth, State and Territory transport officials to identify and explore broader safety management options. To improve rider and pedestrian safety, Ministers agreed to work together to develop an integrated regulatory framework to be led by Western Australia, with support from the NTC and all other jurisdictions. A draft framework will be considered by Infrastructure and Transport Ministers later this year.

Construction and Transport Productivity

Ministers were provided an update from the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, on the Australian Government's productivity agenda in transport and infrastructure construction. The Minister outlined challenges, reform priorities and proposed idea for increasing productivity across the construction and transport sectors.

Next Meeting

Ministers look forward to meeting again in the second half of 2025.



ITMM ATTENDEES

The Hon Catherine King MP (Commonwealth)	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
The Hon Jenny Aitchison MP (New South Wales)	Minister for Roads; Minister for Regional Transport
The Hon John Graham MLC (New South Wales)	Special Minister of State; Minister for Transport; Minister for the Arts; Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy
The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP (Victoria)	Minister for Transport Infrastructure; Minister for Public and Active Transport
The Hon Melissa Horne MP (Victoria)	Minister for Ports and Freight; Minister for Roads and Road Safety; Minister for Health Infrastructure
The Hon Brent Mickelberg MP (Queensland)	Minister for Transport and Main Roads
The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP (South Australia)	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Energy and Mining; Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA (Western Australia)	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport; Minister for Sports and Recreation
Ms Cynthia Heydon (as an observer obo the Hon Kerry Vincent and the Hon Eric Abetz) (Tasmania)	Deputy Secretary Transport, Tasmanian Department of State Growth
The Hon William Yan MP (Northern Territory)	Treasurer; Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure; Minister for Housing Construction
Mr Chris Steel MLA (obo Ms Tara Cheyne MLA) (Australian Capital Territory)	Acting Manager of Government Services, Attorney-General, Minister for Human Rights, Minister for City and Government Services, Minister for the Night-time Economy

