



ITMM COMMUNIQUE

FRIDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2022

The Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting (ITMM) was held in Canberra today.

Market constraints affecting the construction industry

Ministers noted market capacity constraints may continue to affect the delivery of our shared infrastructure investment pipeline, and agreed to progress the National Cabinet tasking to work together to ensure investment settings are sustainable, well-targeted and aligned to market capacity and resource availability. Ministers noted the work underway to develop a national Infrastructure Policy Statement to guide future Australian Government investment. Ministers noted the Australian Government is considering the findings from the Infrastructure Australia review and how best to implement the recommendations.

National Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2025

Ministers agreed to the National Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2025, subject to any further jurisdictional approval processes required. Ministers were briefed about the engagement process undertaken by the Australian Government with jurisdictions and stakeholders and noted that the Action Plan had been revised and strengthened since its presentation and subsequent discussion at ITMM on 11 February 2022. Ministers also agreed to the release of the Action Plan following final approvals.

Improving interoperability of rail systems

Ministers agreed the NTC focus on five priority areas identified as critical pain points for industry. These are: identifying the best mechanism for codifying a small number of critical national standards and complementary rules to make rail more competitive; aligning train control and signalling technology on the eastern seaboard; reducing the burden on drivers, crew, and maintenance workers; streamlining rolling stock approval regimes and identifying the national/international pathways for digital skills required in Australia in the next five years. Ministers noted improving the portability of rail skills and the productivity of the rail sector would also support the achievement of the other key priorities such as decarbonising transport. It was agreed the NTC would present a fully costed work program to ITMM next year, with ministers expressing a desire to advance the workplan out of session with final endorsement in May 2023, and ministers agreeing to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with leaders of the rail industry to advance interoperability and support the competitiveness of the local rail industry.

Heavy vehicle road user charging

Ministers agreed in-principle to a three-year road user charging cycle, but tasked senior officials to undertake further work to establish the right balance between appropriate cost-recovery and operators' ability to cope with price increases in view of the current economic climate. Consultation would focus on an increase in a range between 6 and 10 per cent with a view to concluding these discussions before the end of February 2023.

Decarbonisation of infrastructure and transport

Ministers agreed jurisdictions would contribute to an inventory of activities being undertaken to reduce transport emissions. Ministers agreed jurisdictions would suggest proposals for areas of cross-jurisdictional cooperation to progress through ITMM, with the overall aim of Australian Government, state and territory jurisdictions working together to decarbonise transport – with active transport and opportunities for leadership in incentivising electric vehicles and public transport as key priorities.

Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) in cabin audio visual legislative amendments

Ministers noted the importance of the proposed legislation insofar as it would promote the adoption of “black box” style audio and video safety recordings. Ministers noted a desire to limit the circumstances under which “live-feed” style recordings would be permitted to genuine emergencies only and with an additional reporting requirement for accountability. Ministers therefore tasked ONRSR to work with unions, operators and jurisdictions as a matter of urgency to settle any remaining changes to the proposed legislation in line with this, with a view to agreeing to the legislation out of session in February 2023.

Other matters

NTC legislative matters: endorsed amendments to the Australian Light Vehicle Standards Rules 2015, and the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation. These amendments ensure light and heavy vehicle standards remain contemporary, account for safety improvements, and continue to align with the Australian Design Rules (ADRs).

Transport or Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail: endorsed amendments to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail and the Model Subordinate Instrument on the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road or Rail. These amendments reflect amendments made to the United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN22), embed particular Competent Authorities Panel determinations and approvals into the Code, and tidied up structure and wording generally.

National Maritime Safety Regulation: adopted a new National Standard for Commercial Vessels Part C: Design and construction, Section 2 – Watertight and Weathertight Integrity – Edition 1, and two items related to the National Standard for Commercial Vessels for the purpose of the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 (National Law).

Next meeting

Ministers agreed to next meet in May 2023.



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The Hon Catherine King MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Commonwealth)
Senator the Hon Carol Brown	Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Senator for Tasmania (Commonwealth)
The Hon Robert Stokes MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities and Minister for Active Transport (New South Wales)
The Hon Jacinta Allan MP	Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport Infrastructure; Minister for Suburban Rail Loop, Minister for Commonwealth Games Delivery (Victoria)
The Hon Melissa Horne MP	Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Ports and Freight, Minister for Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)
The Hon Mark Bailey MP	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Energy and Mining (South Australia)
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports (Western Australia)
The Hon Michael Ferguson MP	Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Planning (Tasmania)
The Hon Eva Lawler MLA	Treasurer, Minister for Education, Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Minister for Territory Development (Northern Territory)
Chris Steel MLA	Minister for Transport and City Services; Minister for Skills Special Minister of State (Australian Capital Territory)

