

Statement of Expectations

For the National Transport Commission

For the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021

This Statement of Expectations outlines in a formal and public way, the expectations of the Transport and Infrastructure Council¹ ('the Council') concerning the operations and performance of the National Transport Commission (NTC) from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021². The strategic direction in this Statement is given in accordance with clause 9(a) of the Performance Based Framework agreed by the Council applying from 1 January 2017.

The Council expects the Commissioners for the NTC to help position the NTC to meet current and emerging challenges in road, rail and intermodal transport, by developing national strategic, legislative and regulatory reforms, workable implementation strategies, and evaluation; with the backing of a workforce with the requisite skills and capabilities to achieve these outcomes.

As Commissioners for the NTC, it is expected that you will:

- act as an expert adviser to the Council on reform development, implementation and evaluation, alongside the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) which has accountability to the Council for the delivery of national reforms;
- ensure the NTC maintains responsibility for strategic policy consistent with its core reform role and ongoing regulatory and law reform alongside the jurisdictions, which are responsible as departments of state;
- ensure the NTC acts in accordance with the *National Transport Commission Act 2003* (NTC Act), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), the Intergovernmental Agreement as well as other relevant legislation and legal instruments;
- support the objectives of the Intergovernmental Agreement, including having due regard to the impact of reforms on infrastructure and regional and remote areas;
- align priorities with the Council's Strategic Work Programme;
- give particular attention to the governance of the NTC with regard to the performance based framework agreed by the Council and the Council's response to the recommendations of the 2015 Review of the NTC; and
- ensure that the Council and TISOC are kept fully informed of NTC's actions in relation to agreed initiatives and activities, and alerted to events or issues that may impact on the operations and performance of the NTC, including through the provision of timely reports of progress against the Corporate Plan and work program.

Additionally, the Council's expectations are that the NTC will:

1. Achieve agreed priorities while also identifying new opportunities for the Council to deliver improved outcomes, including through the removal of unnecessary regulatory barriers and a stronger focus on rail.

¹ The Council, a ministerial council formed by the Council of Australian Governments, is responsible for the NTC, as an inter-jurisdictional transport body covered by the Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Road, Rail and Intermodal Transport ('the Intergovernmental Agreement'). The Commonwealth is the host jurisdiction for the NTC as a statutory body established under its laws.

² Noting that the next review of the operation of the NTC Act and the Intergovernmental Agreement is due to be presented to COAG no later than 6 September 2021, in line with s.51 of the NTC Act.

2. Work closely with TISOC in the development and ongoing monitoring of NTC's Corporate Plan, annual work program and budget, to ensure timeliness and appropriate prioritisation.
3. Conduct reform planning³ to integrate implementation planning in proposal development, but not at the risk of slowing down reforms; and work with the closest relationship to TISOC in its policy leadership role.
4. Work with TISOC on effective and appropriate stakeholder engagement⁴ taking into consideration the consultation burden on industry, and develop national regulatory systems to secure the highest possible degree of national consistency.
5. Maintain robust, effective and collaborative working relationships with other transport entities, particularly the national regulators, Austroads, ARRB Group and Transport Certification Australia, to ensure the effective implementation of Council priorities by consensus.
6. Continue the NTC's focus towards higher level strategic policy work consistent with its core reform role, while:
 - a. Transitioning operational policy and routine laws maintenance to the national regulators;
 - b. Strengthening the formal working relationships with the national regulators to improve collaboration and sharing and ensure harmonised and complementary work programs; and
 - c. Maintaining these commitments in memoranda of understanding with national regulators.
7. Support heavy vehicle road reform, by providing technical and other input, as requested by TISOC and the Council.
8. Monitor and provide independent annual reform assessments to the Council⁵, providing an objective analysis of the success or failure, including comment on any issues or problems with NTC or jurisdictional roles and performance.
9. Create a culture for performance⁶ that effectively carries out the Council's priorities with available resources, expertise and systems by focusing on the NTC's people and preparing to both proactively and reactively address reform issues.
10. Adhere to a set of values and a code of conduct that maintain high standards of professionalism, service, probity, reporting, accountability and transparency, consistent with Governments' aims of excellence in the public sector.



DARREN CHESTER

Chair, Transport and Infrastructure Council

20 December 2016

³ Consistent with clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the performance based framework.

⁴ As per clause 6 of the performance based framework.

⁵ As per clauses 7 and 8 of the performance based framework.

⁶ As per clauses 9 and 10 of the performance based framework.