



# Transport and Infrastructure Council

## *Communiqué*

FRIDAY, 5 June 2020

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The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (Council) was held today. Council comprises Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

Ministers welcomed written submissions from the Australian Logistics Council, Roads Australia and a collective of thirteen organisations led by the Australian Automobile Association.

### **SUPPORTING OUR ECONOMY RECOVERY**

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#### *Clearing the Way for an Infrastructure-led Recovery*

Governments recognise the role publicly funded transport infrastructure construction activity will play in Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. Beyond the critical role transport construction contributes to economic activity, transport infrastructure also plays a role in supporting our resilience to disasters such as bushfires. Ministers used this item to discuss their commitment to delivering their existing infrastructure pipelines including stimulus activities and ensuring sufficient resources are deployed to move projects through assessment processes and into construction faster by targeting administrative bottlenecks. Ministers further agreed to work together to harmonise and streamline processes to clear the way for an infrastructure-led recovery to Australia's current economic condition including consideration of infrastructure bodies (iBodies) processes and environmental approvals.

#### *Transport Infrastructure's Role in Reducing Waste*

Council further noted the opportunity their partnership in delivering a national pipeline of transport infrastructure projects provides for repurposing waste. To support the COAG Waste Export Ban and the National Waste Action Plan, Ministers endorsed Austroads commencing a program of work to develop guidelines and model specifications on the use of crushed glass, crumbed tyre rubber and recycled plastics in road construction, by the end of 2021. Austroads will report back to Council on progress at its second meeting in 2020.

#### *Encouraging Patronage on Public Transport*

The pandemic has seen an unprecedented decline in the number of passengers using public transport. Ministers discussed the long term importance of public transport and active travel for liveable cities and managing

congestion. Council noted the work undertaken by Federal, State and Territory Governments to ensure passenger safety on public transport including the AHPPC principles for the safe operation of public transport. Ministers agreed to continue discussions on the role of public transport guided by advice from medical experts.

### *Keeping Freight Moving*

Council noted an update from the National Transport Commission on the progress of the review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law, and endorsed the NTC's plan to provide a Decision Regulation Impact Statement to Council in May 2021. To achieve the best outcomes, there is a need to maintain significant engagement with industry throughout the review. This additional time will enable better consultation with industry and more comprehensive analysis of reform options.

Council welcomed actions taken by the Commonwealth, jurisdictions and transport bodies to implement the recommendations of the Review of Oversize Overmass Heavy Vehicle Access Arrangements, with implementation of 19 of the 38 recommendations completed. Among other things, these changes reduce the need for heavy vehicle operators to apply for access permits through the introduction of access exemption notices and increase the duration of some permits in Queensland. Council endorsed a work plan to progress implementation of the remaining recommendations.

## **MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER**

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To support Australia in its national commitment to vision zero, Council considered a set of proposed policy priorities to respond to our greatest road safety challenges over the next decade. These key areas of focus for the new National Road Safety Strategy are based on the Safe System approach and Council agreed they be tested further in the Australian context through engagement with the road safety community.

Council agreed that specific and separate targets for the reduction in annual road deaths and the reduction in serious injuries by 2030 should be defined as a percentage per capita as part of the new National Road Safety Strategy, recognising population growth as an upward pressure.

Council acknowledged that in order to be successful in reducing road trauma over the next decade, it must reach beyond traditional transport solutions. Road safety is no longer viewed solely as a transport problem. Policies and action outside the transport sector were signalled as powerful influencers to leverage more effective collaboration across society. Council agreed to adopt a social model approach underpinning the Action Plans that will support the Strategy.

Noting the impacts of COVID-19 on the ability of governments to engage with the broader road safety community, Council agreed to consider the final draft of the new National Road Safety Strategy and first Action Plan at their second meeting in 2020, with final endorsement set for early 2021.



Council endorsed the Driver Distraction Roadmap and agreed a working party structure would determine and manage the activities under the Roadmap. Council noted progress on actions agreed by Council at recent meetings.

Council noted the update provided on the Australian Design Rule (ADR) development process. A work program and implementation timeline to consider alignment with the European Union (EU) General Safety Regulation and adoption of United Nations Regulations, will be developed as part of the next National Road Safety Strategy to be considered in the second half of 2020.

## **DELIVERING FOR OUR FUTURE**

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### *Building the regulatory framework to support the safe uptake of automated vehicles*

Ministers noted that in the second half of 2020 the Australian Government will consult on a draft Australian Design Rule which, when implemented, will apply to automated vehicles when they are first supplied commercially to the Australian market. The Commonwealth will report back to Council at its next meeting in 2020.

Ministers agreed to work towards establishing a single, national approach to regulating automated vehicles when they are on the road. This approach will include a national regulator, and a national law, supported by a general safety duty. The National Transport Commission, in conjunction with Australian governments, will further develop the approach, reporting back to Council for decisions on implementation in the first half of 2021.

### *Other matters discussed at Council*

The recent combination of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic has shown to all Australians how important our freight supply chains are to maintaining our way of life. Council today reiterated its commitment to the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy and Action Plan. Ministers endorsed arrangements for the first Freight Industry Reference Panel. The panel will play a key role in ensuring delivery of the strategy and action plan. Council also acknowledged the efforts of essential freight and logistics workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

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<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 Jacinta Allan MP</b>	Minister for Transport Infrastructure (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Jaala Pulford MP</b>	Minister for Roads; Road Safety and the TAC (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Mark Bailey MP</b>	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
<b>The Hon Stephan Knoll MP</b>	Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government; Planning (South Australia)
<b>The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA</b>	Minister for Transport; Planning (Western Australia)
<b>The Hon Michael Ferguson MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
<b>The Hon Eva Lawler MLA</b>	Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)
<b>Chris Steel MLA</b>	Minister for Transport; City Services; Roads and Active Travel; Multicultural Affairs; Recycling and Waste Reduction; Tertiary Education. (Australian Capital Territory)
<b>Shane Rattenbury MLA</b>	Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety; Corrections and Justice Health; Climate Change and Sustainability; Mental Health. (Australian Capital Territory)
<b>Mayor David O'Loughlin</b>	President (Australian Local Government Association)

