

MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

Subject	Meeting with Geoff Allan, Austroads CEO
Date	22 June 2022
Briefing number	BRI-2491

Contact(s) for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Direct line	Cell phone	1 st contact
Brett Gliddon	General Manager, Transport Services	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Action taken by Office of the Minister

- Noted
- Seen by Minister
- Agreed
- Feedback provided
- Forwarded to
- Needs change [please specify]
- Withdrawn
- Overtaken by events

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

22 June 2022

Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport

MEETING WITH GEOFF ALLAN, CEO OF AUSTRROADS

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information on Austroads, prior to your meeting with Geoff Allan, Austroads CEO and Brett Gliddon, General Manager, Transport Services on 27 June 2022.
2. This briefing provides the background of the agenda items proposed by Austroads, and some key areas that you may wish to discuss at the meeting.

Background

3. Austroads is the collective of the Australian and New Zealand transport agencies, representing all levels of government. Austroads provides a collective approach that delivers value for money, encourages shared knowledge and drives consistency for road users, impacting on a wide range of agencies through planning, service, infrastructure, health and safety, public health, and policing. It publishes guidelines, codes of practice and research reports that promote best practice for road management organisations in Australasia. New Zealand became a member of Austroads in 1993.
4. The purpose of Austroads is to:
 - Promote improved Australian and New Zealand transport outcomes
 - Provide expert technical input to national policy development on road and transport issues
 - Promote improved practice and capability by road agencies
 - Promote consistency in road and road agency operations
5. The main activities for Austroads are:
 - Conducting strategic research which helps road agencies to address current and emerging issues
 - Developing and maintaining technical guides and tools to promote a nationally consistent approach to the design, maintenance, and operation of road networks
 - Facilitating the sharing of knowledge by widely disseminating research outputs, conducting seminars, and promoting the use of Austroads work
 - Conducting business activities on behalf of Australasian road agencies
 - Fostering international collaboration by engaging with and supporting international road organisations.

6. You will be meeting with Geoff Allan, CEO of Austroads, and Brett Gliddon, General Manager of Transport Services, and member of the Austroads Board for 30 minutes. Austroads have forwarded a number of proposed items for the meeting agenda, including:

- Current priorities
- Safe System Approach
- Environment and Emissions Reduction
- Use of digital technology in transport.

Waka Kotahi involvement in Austroads

7. Brett Gliddon has been an Austroads Board member for four years and around 20 employees of Waka Kotahi are currently involved in Austroads committees and task forces. Waka Kotahi involvement is wide ranging, including environmental sustainability, technical standards for pavements and bridges, safer roads and roadsides, road design and future transport technologies.
8. Through Austroads, Waka Kotahi benefits from access to the most up to date international developments, and our level of contribution has been regularly recognised at the Austroads Board level.

Priorities for Austroads

9. A core focus for Austroads is the focus on incorporating the Safe System into practice through delivering National Road Safety Strategy priorities and seeking innovative solutions to work towards Vision Zero, which is the approach that Waka Kotahi is undertaking through Road to Zero, New Zealand's road safety strategy.
10. Improving the management and performance of transport infrastructure through providing asset managers with assistance to deliver an affordable and sustainable level of service appropriate for road users and the community is another focus of Austroads.

The Safe System approach, safety of road construction workers

11. Across Australia and New Zealand, there are approximately 1,500 deaths and 40,000 serious injuries per year across the transport system. Austroads is committed to supporting member agencies and the broader road safety community to find solutions to the challenges associated with the transport system, and to play a lead role in the development of a path to zero deaths and serious injuries by 2050. This path will benefit all road users, including those in vehicles, walkers and cyclists, and road construction workers.

12. Austroads hold the following values for a safe, shared approach to Vision Zero:

- Partnership – working together to improve safety outcomes for all road users
- Transparency – actively delivering on needs and promises to reach the safety outcomes
- Harmonisation – standardisation across the transport system to achieve Vision Zero.

13. Austroads has created guidance that Waka Kotahi follows, including the recent guide 'Integrating Safe System with Movement and Place for vulnerable road users' to ensure that the design of different urban environments contribute to the Safe System approach under Road to Zero.
14. Alongside the work that Austroads has undertaken on the Safe System approach, Austroads have developed a *Guide to Temporary Traffic Management* (the Guide) to improve the safety and efficiency of temporary traffic management on road worksites across Australia and New Zealand. The Guide encourages consistent planning and streamlines safe work practices across all works on or near roads, in addition to off road developments and other activities that impact on road operations.
15. In addition to the Guide, Austroads is continuing its efforts to develop improved training for the design and implementation of temporary traffic management.
16. Waka Kotahi is developing a simpler guide to manage temporary traffic by prioritising the safety of all road workers. This is a flexible set of guidelines emphasising risk for individual situations.

Environment and emissions reduction

17. Environment and sustainability were identified by the Austroads Board as key focus areas in the Austroads 2020-24 Strategic Plan, resulting in the establishment of the Austroads Environment and Sustainability Program (the Program) in 2021.
18. A sustainable transport system is essential to mitigating and managing the effects of climate change, creating liveable places, reducing waste, supporting health and wellbeing, and protecting the wider environment. The Program's vision is that environment and sustainability outcomes are at the heart of transport decision-making.
19. The Environment and Sustainability Task Force which has representatives from Australian and New Zealand transport agencies provides leadership and best practice guidance and drives improvements in environment and sustainability in transport. The Task Force is developing a pipeline of projects, with the first project examining best practice environment and sustainability reporting and the consideration of changes to the Austroads Guide to Environmental Reporting.

It is recommended that you:

1. **Note** the contents of this briefing



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Brett Gliddon

General Manager, Transport Services

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Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Date: 2022