

# *Communiqué*

**MELBOURNE  
THURSDAY, 4 AUGUST 2016**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Council (the Council) was held in Melbourne today. The Council includes Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

Industry representatives from Australasian Railway Association, Australian Automobile Association, Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association, Australian Logistics Council, Australian Trucking Association, Ports Australia and the Truck Industry Council also attended as observers of the meeting and provided their views on the items for consideration by Ministers.

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**

The United States Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Anthony Foxx, gave a keynote address to the Council on Transportation Opportunities in the 21st Century. Secretary Foxx spoke about the challenges facing the United States in meeting the growing demand for infrastructure and the policies and opportunities the United States is pursuing to address these challenges. In particular, there was discussion around public private partnerships and using innovative technology to increase mobility and the efficient use of infrastructure.

## **LAND TRANSPORT MARKET REFORM**

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The Council noted the growing momentum for road charging and investment reform, including the Council of Australian Governments' December 2015 directive that Council accelerate Heavy Vehicle Road Reform and investigate the benefits and costs of introducing user charging for all vehicles. A presentation was provided by the Commonwealth outlining pressures on the current model for funding and provision of road services, and the potential benefits of moving to market based provision of these services for all vehicles. Council noted that the immediate priority is further development of the heavy vehicle user charging system. Council will progress next steps, including further, more detailed consideration of potential costs and benefits of reform.

## **TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY**

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The Council acknowledges that emerging technologies such as automated and connected vehicles have the potential to fundamentally improve safety, productivity, environmental sustainability and transport accessibility. The Council agreed to a National Policy Framework

for Land Transport Technology, which sets out shared policy principles for deploying emerging technologies and which will ensure that consistent approaches are undertaken at all levels of government.

The Policy Framework Action Plan identifies key areas of focus for the Council to ensure Australia's readiness to support the take up of new technologies. The Council's short term priorities are removing regulatory barriers to testing automated vehicles, considering the infrastructure required to support automated and connected vehicles and improving access to transport data. A nationally consistent approach will reduce costs, provide certainty to industry, promote innovation and competition and ensure that Australians have early access to the newest technologies.

## **NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

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The Council welcomed the release of the Australian Transport Assessment and Planning (ATAP) Guidelines as part of the completion of the review and update of the National Guidelines for Transport System Management in Australia.

Council agreed to the public release of the ATAP Guidelines, recognising that they will form the single, definitive national source of guidance on transport planning and evaluation. The release of the website is the culmination of three years' work to align processes associated with transport planning and evaluation with global best practice, and includes new sections such as active travel and integrated transport and land use planning. The ATAP Guidelines will continue to be updated iteratively, recognising, amongst other things, that updated parameter values and the provision of worked examples are still to be included.

## **HEAVY VEHICLE REGULATION**

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The Council noted the work of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in progressing the Heavy Vehicle Roadworthiness Program, including commencement of the National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey involving inspections of around 9,000 heavy vehicles to build a national view of the roadworthiness of our Australian fleet.

The Council also endorsed the 2016-17 work plan of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to use funding redirected from the abolition of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal for heavy vehicle safety initiatives. These measures include expanding the current heavy vehicle monitoring network of roadside cameras for a national approach and facilitating development of Industry Codes of Practice and guidance for supply chain participants on Chain of Responsibility awareness.

## **RAIL REGULATION**

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The Council noted the operating budget and Corporate Plan 2016-19 recently published by the Office of the Rail Safety Regulator, and the progress made against its strategic work plan.

## **MARITIME SAFETY REGULATION**

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The Council was briefed on the progress of the preparations for the revised service delivery arrangements for national commercial vessel regulation, which will see the Australian Maritime Safety Authority assume the majority of service delivery activities by 1 July 2017 and subsequently full service delivery by mid-2019. The new arrangements will focus on rewarding good safety management by reducing the regulatory burden on industry without compromising safety outcomes.

## **COUNCIL DIRECTIONS**

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The Australian infrastructure and transport sectors face a number of significant opportunities and challenges in the coming decades. In recognition of this, the Council released its long term vision for infrastructure and transport in Australia in November 2015. Today the Council considered a strategic work programme to support its long term vision that was released in November 2015. The strategic work programme is structured around four strategic reform priorities and sets out a number of key activities that will enhance Australia's productivity, competitiveness and liveability. Progressing these key activities will help to drive economic growth, increase employment opportunities, support social connectivity and enhance quality of life for all Australians.

## **DRIVER LICENCE HARMONISATION**

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The Ministers endorsed that further work be undertaken on delivering greater driver licence harmonisation across the nation.

## **NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY**

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The Council agreed to the Implementation Report 2015 of the National Cycling Strategy, and agreed to extend the funding for the Australian Bicycle Council until the end of 2017. It was also agreed that the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee would consider options for a national or state/territory approach to active transport for 2018 onwards.

## **HARMONISATION OF ROLLING STOCK SAFETY STANDARDS**

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Victoria has led progress towards the identification and harmonisation of priority passenger rolling stock componentry standards/specifications. The Council agreed that Victoria seek technical advice on harmonising priority standards.

The Council also noted that Victoria is working closely with the jurisdictions on the development of a coordinated national rolling stock procurement and maintenance pipeline. The Council agreed to consider a further progress report from Victoria in November 2016.

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

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<b>The Hon Darren Chester MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Commonwealth)
<b>The Hon Paul Fletcher MP</b>	Minister for Urban Infrastructure (Commonwealth)
<b>The Hon Duncan Gay MLC</b>	Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight (New South Wales)
<b>The Hon Jacinta Allan MP</b>	Minister for Public Transport (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Luke Donnellan MP</b>	Minister for Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP</b>	Minister for Transport and Commonwealth Games (Queensland)
<b>The Hon Dean Nalder MLA</b>	Minister for Transport (Western Australia)
<b>The Hon Stephen Mullighan MP</b>	Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (South Australia)
<b>The Hon Rene Hidding MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
<b>Mayor Damien Ryan</b>	Vice President (Australian Local Government Association)

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