

# *Communiqué*

**CANBERRA**  
**FRIDAY, 10 MAY 2013**

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure (the Standing Council) was held in Canberra today to consider a wide range of major transport initiatives and reforms. The Standing Council includes Transport, Infrastructure and Planning Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories, New Zealand and the Australian Local Government Association.

## **NATIONAL TRANSPORT REGULATION REFORMS**

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The Standing Council took decisions today to finalise the implementation of the national heavy vehicle, rail safety and maritime safety regulators. These historic reforms will provide significant productivity benefits to the transport industry and to Australia's national economy.

The National Rail Safety Regulator commenced operations on 20 January 2013 and the Rail Safety National Law has been enacted in South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria. Today, the Standing Council approved the fees regulation to apply for the 2013-14 financial year, following industry consultation by the National Regulator.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator was established on 21 January 2013. The Standing Council welcomed the passage of the *Heavy Vehicle National Law 2012* and the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Act 2013* in Queensland; which will allow other states and territories to pass enabling legislation in the coming months.

The Standing Council congratulated Victoria and South Australia on introducing their enabling legislation in their respective Parliaments.

The Standing Council approved the 2013-14 budget and financial arrangements for the National Regulator, and noted that further work is required to implement a national registration scheme for heavy vehicles. The Standing Council also approved the Advanced Fatigue Management arrangements for managing driver fatigue.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority will commence the national regulation of domestic commercial vessels from 1 July 2013. Today, the Standing Council agreed the national accreditation arrangements for marine surveyors and the national standards for commercial vessels covering crew competencies and operations.

## **NATIONAL LAND FREIGHT STRATEGY**

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The Standing Council agreed to the National Land Freight Strategy, which represents the first time a national approach to planning for freight has been jointly agreed by Australian governments. With Australia's freight task forecast to double by 2030 from 2010 levels, the Strategy provides an integrated approach to addressing the key issues confronting Australia's freight infrastructure, identifying the measures needed to address planning, investment and regulatory challenges. Implementation of the Strategy will commence immediately.

The Strategy can be found at <http://scoti.gov.au/publications/index.aspx>.

## **NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY**

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The Standing Council agreed that all jurisdictions would strengthen their efforts to implement the priority actions in the National Road Safety Strategy 2011–2020. While considerable activity has been undertaken in the two years since the release of the strategy, the Standing Council noted that progress remains limited in a number of key areas.

The Standing Council also noted the second anniversary of the launch of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (on 11 May 2013) and reaffirmed Australia's support for international efforts to reduce the level of global road trauma.

## **HEAVY VEHICLE CHARGING DETERMINATION**

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A majority of Ministers supported the National Transport Commission's recommendations on new heavy vehicle charges. The National Transport Commission report on which the recommendations were based can be found at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au).

Ministers agreed to the development of detailed charging options for heavy vehicle charges to apply from mid-2014, with final decisions expected to be made in early 2014. The Council decision followed consideration of a heavy vehicle charges review conducted by the National Transport Commission. The Commission consulted closely with industry and stakeholders in the conduct of the review, and this close consultation will continue as the detailed options are prepared for consideration by the Council.

## **HEAVY VEHICLE CHARGING AND INVESTMENT**

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The Standing Council also considered the outcome of discussions with industry and stakeholders on the major longer-term reforms to investment and charging arrangements under consideration in the Heavy Vehicle Charging and Investment initiative, and agreed that a co-design approach with industry was needed to develop a detailed, integrated package of reform options for public consultation. As a result, recommendations from the Council on the options will be provided to COAG in July 2014.

## **IMPROVING HEAVY VEHICLE SAFETY**

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The Standing Council considered the outcomes of a New South Wales-led pilot of Electronic Work Diaries, as a potential alternative to the written work diaries that are currently the key tool for implementing heavy vehicle driver fatigue rules. The pilot found that the electronic diaries are feasible from technical, operational and regulatory perspectives, and have the potential to generate safety and productivity benefits. The Standing Council agreed that an approach to national adoption of the electronic diaries be developed by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the National Transport Commission for consideration by the Council later this year.

The Standing Council also agreed that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, with support from the National Transport Commission and New South Wales, will lead a project to develop the framework for a star rating safety system for heavy vehicles in 2013-14, with a view to implementing a pilot in 2014-15. The pilot will be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP**

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The Standing Council noted the Infrastructure Working Group Progress Report and the referral of the New South Wales lead work on Productivity Metrics to the Group.

The Progress Report outlined the current work being undertaken by the Infrastructure Working Group including the reforms to the National Pre-Qualification System (non-residential building sector) to reduce red tape and business costs to infrastructure contractors. The Infrastructure Working Group also agreed to establish a Contract Management Forum and National Leadership Academy for the purpose of facilitating an exchange of knowledge and increased learning in infrastructure procurement within the public sector.

## **CITIES WORK PLAN**

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The Standing Council noted progress under the Cities Work Plan. The Work Plan includes improving national information on cities and sharing best practice in strategic planning systems, engaging the private sector to create better public spaces and considering the effectiveness of coordination and communication arrangements associated with non-aviation development on airport land.

The Standing Council also noted the recent release of the New South Wales Government's White Paper "*A New Planning System for NSW*".

## **PARTICIPATING MEMBERS**

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<b>The Hon Anthony Albanese MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government (Commonwealth)
<b>The Hon Catherine King MP</b>	Minister for Road Safety (Commonwealth)
<b>The Hon Duncan Gay MLC</b>	Minister for Roads and Ports (New South Wales)
<b>The Hon Brad Hazzard MP</b>	Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (New South Wales)
<b>The Hon Terry Mulder MP</b>	Minister for Roads, Minister for Public Transport (Victoria)
<b>The Hon David Hodgett MP</b>	Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects (Victoria)
<b>The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MHA</b>	Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (South Australia)
<b>The Hon David O’Byrne MP</b>	Minister for Infrastructure (Tasmania)
<b>The Hon Adam Giles MLA</b>	Minister for Transport (Northern Territory)
<b>Mr Simon Corbell MLA</b>	Attorney General (Australian Capital Territory)
<b>The Hon Gerry Brownlee MP</b>	Minister of Transport (New Zealand)
<b>Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis</b>	President (Australian Local Government Association)