

IMPLEMENTATION OF ESD BY
COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
ATTACHMENT TO REGISTRATION OF INTEREST FORUM
AUSTROADS MAIN INTEREST IN THE INQUIRY

As the association of road transport and traffic authorities in Australia and New Zealand, Austroads has identified *The Impact of Roads and Road Transport on Sustainability* in its Strategic Plan as one of the issues it will continue to address. A copy of Austroads Strategic Plan 1998-2001 is attached. Austroads main concern is with best practice and national harmonisation and, within this framework, it has completed and is currently undertaking a number of projects related to ESD and road transport.

Austroads wishes to appraise the Inquiry of its work and its capability in the subject area. This is outlined in the attached copy of Austroads recent submission to the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT), under cover of the Chairman's letter of 5 February 1999, as a contribution to the Australian Transport Council's response to the National Greenhouse Strategy. In particular, the letter draws attention to Austroads role as the road modal advisory group to the Australian Transport Council.

In addition, Austroads has developed and published its Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development - copy attached. This is currently being revised, with the revised strategy due for publication later in 1999.

Robert AM Wilson
Executive Director
25 February 1999
cc. Tony Wilson, Austroads Chairman

COPY

A U S T R O A D S

Our reference: AUS-11.5
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Mr Dan Jones
ATC Secretariat
Department of Transport and
Regional Services
PO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dan,

NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY

At the Australian Transport Council (ATC) meeting in April 1998, it was agreed to provide input into the National Greenhouse Strategy (NGS) and to assess the need for national coordination on transport measures. This relates principally to Module 5 *Efficient transport and sustainable urban planning* in the NGS.

In July 1998, ATC asked the Standing Committee on Transport (SCOT) to comment on measures in relation to areas in Module 5 where ATC has been allocated responsibility for implementation or key involvement and on any other measures where ATC should be involved.

In response, at its meeting in October 1998, SCOT asked the jurisdictions to provide information and suggestions about their own activities. SCOT also asked Austroads to identify actions that contribute to meeting the NGS transport obligations as outlined in Module 5.

Austroads has already supplied information of this type on 17 July 1998 in response to the July 1998 ATC request to SCOT referred to above, which was also forwarded to Austroads at that time. Therefore, on this occasion, Austroads has updated its earlier response to the end of 1998 taking account of the changes made since July to Module 5. This is provided in the attached table.

In addition to the Austroads Chairman's membership of SCOT, Austroads is the road modal advisory group to ATC. In that role, Austroads undertakes specific work requested of it by ATC and SCOT, such as the review of the National Bicycle Strategy. It also has a comprehensive work program which, in part, addresses the relevant sections of the ATC Strategic Plan.

Austroads work program takes its direction from its own Strategic Plan 1998-2001. This plan recognises Austroads relationship to the ATC in the Foreword and states its intention to support ATC in the strategies listed under the first of its 22 issues.

Austroads Strategic Plan defines a framework of six values within which it operates. One of these is "recognises the principles of ecologically sustainable development in Austroads programs and practices". This then permeates all that Austroads does.

In addition, Austrroads has identified three issues in its Strategic Plan which relate directly to The National Greenhouse Strategy - Issue 1.2 *The Impact of Roads and Road Transport on Sustainability*, Issue 1.5 *Environmental Impact of Roads and Road Use* and Issue 1.6 *Relationship between Transport, Roads and Land Use Planning*. The first of these places emphasis on resource use which, of course, has a major influence on the generation of greenhouse gases; the second emphasises emissions; current work on the third issue has focussed on the production of a landmark better practice guide to the creation of sustainable, efficient and equitable cities and regions within a context of growth and change. (This directly addresses module 5.3 on page 57 of the National Greenhouse Strategy.) Other strategies within the plan address such matters as public transport, pedestrians, cyclists, congestion, traffic management, travel demand management and freight logistics, all of which relate at least indirectly to the generation and control of greenhouse gases.

In all these areas, Austrroads has work completed, published or in publication, currently underway and/or planned for 1998/99. Further work will be programmed beyond 1999, taking its direction from the Austrroads Strategic Plan which in turn is influenced by the ATC Strategic Plan and documents such as the National Greenhouse Strategy.

I am therefore confident that, within its charter, Austrroads is making a significant and worthwhile contribution towards implementation of The National Greenhouse Strategy, and considerable progress should be evident by the time of the first review in 2002. In particular Austrroads contributes to the Strategy's second goal, *to foster knowledge and understanding of greenhouse issues*, and supports principally its fifth principle, *action to be informed by research*.

I trust this information will be helpful to you in your preparation of an ATC response to the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Yours sincerely

A H Wilson
CHAIRMAN

cc. Austrroads Council Members
Program Managers
Executive Director

AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY

AREA	AUSTROADS WORK/OUTPUTS	STATUS/TIMEFRAME
1. Economic instruments & transport	<p>Austrroads work on economic evaluation has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the development and production of a Benefit Cost Analysis Manual which endeavours to take "external" factors, eg emissions, into account, and provides an analysis framework for so doing; and · The development of an Austrroads "Project Evaluation Manual". <p>Austrroads has examined mechanisms (including economic) for private sector financing of transport infrastructure.</p> <p>A project on valuing externalities, including emissions, aims to develop unit costs to facilitate more comprehensive multi-criteria evaluation of road investment proposals.</p>	<p>Manual published</p> <p>Manual underway - expect publication in 2nd 1/2 1999.</p> <p>Report published.</p> <p>Commencement dependent on availability of funds; currently scheduled to commence July 1999 and finish mid 2000</p>
2. Environmental policy and practices	<p>Austrroads published an Environmental Strategy in 1994, which is currently being revised and updated. This strategy, which was developed in the context of the National Strategy for ESD and the 1992 National Greenhouse Strategy, has a strong emphasis on air quality and also calls for Austrroads to define the ramification for its members of the National Greenhouse Strategy.</p> <p>Austrroads is also undertaking a project to develop guidelines for air quality, aimed at producing a better understanding of air quality issues and achieving a more nationally uniform approach to air quality issues.</p>	<p>The revised Austrroads Environmental Strategy is due to be published in early 1999</p> <p>Expected to be completed in the first half of 1999, but depends on finalisation of the NEPC related air quality measure</p>

AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY

AREA	AUSTROADS WORK/OUTPUTS	STATUS/TIMEFRAME
3. Integrated land use and transport planning	<p>A project on the consequences of road planning priorities on the environment has looked at the "big picture" view of the environmental impact of overall road system improvements within the context of current priorities in road programs around the nation.</p> <p>A suite of projects on integration of planning for roads, land use and the environment will provide a landmark better practice guide to the creation of sustainable, efficient and equitable cities and regions within a context of growth and change.</p> <p>A project on land use, transport and travel demand is seeking to clarify the impact of a policy of high residential density development and better land use mixes on road demand.</p>	<p>Project complete; publication in 1st 1/2 1999.</p> <p>Work complete; documents published. Work underway on promotion and promulgation across Australia.</p> <p>Work complete; findings being published</p>
4. Travel demand and traffic management	<p>Austrroads has recently completed its Strategy for Traffic Management Research and Development. One of the five key objectives of this strategy is minimising environmental impacts of traffic. Research areas</p>	<p>several mechanisms both in Australia and overseas</p> <p>The published strategy is currently being implemented.</p>

environment, interaction of traffic and land use, traffic congestion and travel demand management.

A number of traffic management research and best practice projects are underway or soon to be commenced, including specifically a project to reassess the fundamental speed versus flow relationship incorporating the minimising of emissions, and a project to develop traffic management performance measures.

On-going

Austrorads undertook a major state-of-the-art study to produce travel demand management guidelines which provide a comprehensive overview of general travel demand management characteristics and measures, together with performance and evaluation criteria and examples of measures used in Australia and overseas.

Guidelines published as an Austrorads report in late 1995. This work will be reviewed in 1999/2000 for a possible update.

AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY

AREA

AUSTROADS WORK/OUTPUTS

STATUS/TIMEFRAME

5. Walking and cycling

Austrorads well-known 14-part Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice series includes Part 13 *Pedestrians* and Part 14 *Bicycles*. The latter is currently being revised and updated. February 1999.

The revised *Bicycles* Traffic Engineering Practice guide is due for publication in

At the request of SCOT/ATC, Austrorads in consultation with cyclist groups has revised the National Bicycle Strategy.

The revised strategy has been endorsed by ATC and will be launched by the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and Regional Services at the velocity Conference in February 1999.

A number of other Austrorads projects are specifically taking into account the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users not in cars and trucks in developing multi-modal solutions to transport problems.

6. Allowing larger configurations

Within the context of the outcome identified in Austrorads Strategic Plan of "improved transport efficiency through a better balance between vehicle use, road infrastructure and road user costs", Austrorads has produced a Strategy for Productivity Improvements for the Road Transport Industry.

Strategy published in 1996

Taking direction from this strategy and under commission to the National Road Transport Commission, Austrorads has undertaken and is continuing to do a number of research and best practice projects relating to different sizes, weights and configurations of vehicles, specifically in the areas of:

- support for and coordination of Australia's involvement in the OECD IR6 project on the dynamic interaction between vehicles and infrastructure - road friendly suspensions
- bridge assessment and strengthening
- the mass limits review
- developing strategies for overweight and oversize containers at the request of ATC
- review of vehicle dimension limits.

On-going

To facilitate the design of roads for larger configuration vehicles, Austrorads revised and updated its publication on Design Vehicles and Turning Path Templates to provide for B-doubles and road trains.

Design Vehicles and Turning Path Templates published in 1995.

AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY

AREA

AUSTROADS WORK/OUTPUTS

STATUS/TIMEFRAME

7.	Freight strategy and freight logistics	<p>Austroroads has developed a strategy for research into road freight and commercial traffic to ensure issues of highest importance to Austroroads members are addressed.</p> <p>A project on roads and road transport in the logistics chain aims to improve the understanding of the role that road transport plays in the logistics chain of business and the consequential effects on regional development. This should lead to improved ways of assessing the need for investment in road and other modal transport and selected infrastructure, and hence lead to improvements in freight logistics.</p> <p>A project to consolidate findings of freight transport chain case studies aims to improve knowledge and understanding of freight transport operations and trends through consolidation of the findings from a range of recent case studies.</p>	<p>Work complete; findings being built into future projects.</p> <p>Work to commence soon and due for completion in the 2nd half of 1999</p> <p>Work to commence soon and due for completion in the middle of 1999.</p>
8.	The potential for intelligent transport systems (ITS)	<p>Austroroads has appointed ITS Australia as its reference group on ITS matters, and is commissioning research through ITS Australia. A key project, at the request of ATC, is the development of a National ITS Strategy which will set a clear direction for realising the many benefits from deploying ITS identified in the recently completed Booz-Allen study for ITS Australia.</p> <p>Austroroads/ITS Australia work on electronic toll collection standards will help to achieve a higher proportion of free flow through toll plazas at an earlier date, with consequent reductions in greenhouse emissions.</p>	<p>The first draft National ITS Strategy is scheduled for submission to the April 1999 ATC meeting.</p> <p>ATC has announced the adoption of a standard which has been widely promulgated</p>
<p>AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY</p>			
9.	<p>AREA</p> <p>Ecologically sustainable development and in 1995. resource usage</p>	<p>AUSTROADS WORK/OUTPUTS</p> <p>Austroroads published a Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development. That strategy will be reviewed and updated during 1998/99. It is firmly linked to the National ESD Strategy.</p> <p>Austroroads has and is continuing to undertake a series of projects on roadside vegetation control and conservation of biodiversity in road corridors. This work will contribute to enhancing greenhouse sinks.</p> <p>Austroroads undertook a project on resource consumption in the roads component of the total transport task. It is intended to provide an embodied resource method with respect to freight movements that has been tested across multiple modes.</p>	<p>STATUS/TIMEFRAME</p> <p>Revised Austroroads Strategy for ESD due to be published in the middle of 1999.</p> <p>Work complete; findings will soon be published.</p>
10.	Intermodal integration	<p>Austroroads has commissioned a project on multi-modal evaluation and assessment, which aims to define and develop a framework, inclusive of externalities, to evaluate and prioritise candidate transport infrastructure investment projects from different transport modes.</p> <p>Other Austroroads work, particularly in the area of freight strategy and freight logistics, incorporates improved intermodal integration as one of its principal goals.</p>	<p>Project complete; the framework will be published in Austroroads "Project Evaluation Manual".</p>
<p>AUSTROADS WORK CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL GREENHOUSE STRATEGY</p>			

11. Public transport commenced	<p>Austrroads is undertaking a series of projects aimed at developing and implementing a research strategy for road-based public transport. This</p> <p>will lead to a multi-year research program with discrete projects aimed at an improved contribution of roads - including reduced emissions - to the urban transport task.</p>	<p>A series of candidate projects have been identified and work has</p>
12. Performance indicators - emissions	<p>Austrroads leads the world in its annual reporting of a suite of national performance indicators for the Australian and New Zealand road system and road authorities. These indicators include greenhouse gas emissions per vehicle kilometre travelled.</p> <p>Austrroads is continuing to develop further social and environmental performance measures including resource recycling and substitution, extent of externalities and vehicle fuel efficiency.</p>	<p>Indicators reported annually</p> <p>Completion of development of these new indicators should enable their inclusion in the 1999 edition of National Performance Indicators</p>