

OVERVIEW – THE ROADS ALLIANCE

Meeting the community's increasingly complex infrastructure requirements provides challenges beyond any one level of government. The Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS) network is a combined road set for which communities expect both state and local governments to work together to deliver maximum benefits within available resources.

To meet these challenges, Main Roads and local government have developed a road management partnership called the Roads Alliance to deliver better working relationships, better capability, better performance and an improved regional road system.

The Roads Alliance is a commitment by Main Roads and local government to achieve better value from all available resources through improved planning, increased capability, better resource sharing, joint purchasing, and more efficient project delivery. It is a shared initiative between Main Roads and local government to achieve smarter management and delivery of Queensland's road network. Within this partnership local governments are jointly represented by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) as their nominated representative body.

The Roads Alliance challenges traditional thinking on how state and local governments should collaborate. It empowers regional communities to increase their ability to set and deliver regional road outcomes. In the Roads Alliance partnership, investment strategies and best practice road management processes guide decision-making on an agreed road network, regardless of ownership.

Since its inception in 2002, the Roads Alliance has achieved its primary aim of establishing a collaborative approach to road network management and planning and enhanced coordination of road projects. The Roads Alliance is the first initiative through which state and local governments have jointly developed regional works programs for managing a network of approximately 31,400 kilometres of public roads, known as the Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS).

Sixteen Regional Road Groups (RRGs) with representatives from Main Roads and local governments have developed their regional works programs and will monitor their success in order to improve the process over time. The works programs will ultimately show five-year road network priorities and will demonstrate better funding allocations at a regional level.

Notable achievements and potential benefits of the Roads Alliance include:

- + Achieving greater efficiencies for state and local government and industry through combined road network planning and project scheduling including reduction of duplication
- + Investing in improved road management and delivery capability through more training, better technology and systems
- + Improving road safety
- + Maximising benefits from partnerships with industry

The impact of the Roads Alliance model on regional road network management in Queensland includes:

- + Reduced cost through better use of resources and economies of scale
- + Increased industry involvement and capability
- + Streamlined processes and more effective investment
- + Regional sustainability and economic viability
- + Improved labour skills
- + A network approach to investment
- + Better, safer roads sooner for the community.

The Roads Alliance has gained national and international recognition as leading the way for two levels of government to cooperate in addressing community issues. It has also been acknowledged as a best practice model with the potential for replication across many areas of public policy.

Through its focus on improving effectiveness and efficiency, the Roads Alliance helps to ensure the right job is done at the right standard, on time and on budget. This means improved economic performance through reduced travel costs and improved access to infrastructure. Equally, it delivers improved social outcomes such as better access to community services like health and education.

The Roads Alliance is an innovative approach to public sector management. The outcomes of this initiative will benefit all Queenslanders.

THE ROADS ALLIANCE IN ACTION

ROADS ALLIANCE STATEWIDE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

To provide guidance and ensure effective management of the Roads Alliance, a statewide governance model has been established.

The model consists of two parts. The first outlines the roles and responsibilities for:

- + The Queensland Department of Main Roads
- + The Local Government Association of Queensland Inc
- + Individual Local Governments
- + Regional Road Groups (RRGs), their sub groups and Technical Committees.

Each RRG also has a constitution which outlines their individual governance structure and operational arrangements.

The second part of the statewide governance model provides for the establishment of:

1. The Roads Alliance Board comprising senior officers from the LGAQ and Main Roads
2. An Operations and Management Committee
3. Committees and working groups for key issue areas, such as asset management, program development and joint purchasing and resource sharing
4. A RRG Assembly

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE ROADS ALLIANCE BOARD?

The Roads Alliance Board has the responsibility of setting the strategic direction of the Roads Alliance and overseeing implementation and operations across the state. The Board does this by:

- + Monitoring RRG progress and identifying opportunities to build the strength of the Alliance
- + Ensuring effective governance arrangements are in place at all levels
- + Fostering a strong working relationships between all parties
- + Ensuring consistency of outputs across the state
- + Promoting the principles of the Roads Alliance at the state and national level
- + Facilitating innovative programs to improve Roads Alliance processes and supporting initiatives complimentary to Alliance outcomes.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP



LEFT TO RIGHT:

Alan Tesch –
Director General,
Main Roads (Chair)



Greg Hallam –
Executive Director, LGAQ



Les Ford
Deputy Director General,
Main Roads

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Neil Doyle –
General Manager, Organisational
Positioning and Stakeholder
Relations, Main Roads



Greg Hoffman –
Director,
Policy and Representation, LGAQ



Mark Piorkowski –
Manager, Roads Transport and
Infrastructure, LGAQ



THE ROADS ALLIANCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE RRG ASSEMBLY?

The Regional Road Group (RRG) Assembly is a forum to meet and discuss Roads Alliance implementation and operational matters. Held on a biannual basis the assembly enables representatives from all RRGs to discuss these matters, provide feedback on the progress of the Roads Alliance in their region, and provide input into the forward program for board consideration.

APRIL 2006 ROADS ALLIANCE ASSEMBLY

April's RRG Assembly focused on the ongoing operations of the Roads Alliance and the capability issue facing RRGs in complying with Roads Alliance processes. Capability was addressed with the formal announcement of RRG's access to 5% Capability funding annually.

Other matters discussed at the Assembly were:

- + The benefit to RRGs when bringing together councils and Main Roads districts
- + Councils improved investment planning through Investment Strategy Development
- + An acknowledgement of the ability to allocate funds regionally
- + The chairs' belief that an external secretariat or coordinator was beneficial to run RRGs
- + Agreement that consolidation of current Alliance initiatives was a high priority
- + Acknowledgement that the new Prioritisation Tool was a significant improvement and can accommodate preservation projects
- + Identification of external consultants that may be accessed by RRGs.

The meeting demonstrated the need to keep technical involvement at the assembly and provided an effective forum for RRG members and Technical chairs to exchange information and share their experiences with counterparts statewide.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr Greg Hallam (Executive Director LGAQ), Cr Don Aldous (Mayor Caloundra City), Cr Carol Taylor (Mayor Cambooya Shire), Cr Tom Woods (Mayor Waggamba Shire) and Mr Alan Tesch (Director General Main Roads)

The Roads Alliance Excellence Awards were presented at the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) 2006 Infrastructure Symposium Dinner. The awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge and reward Regional Road Groups (RRGs) for their efforts in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Roads Alliance.

LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

This award aims to recognise leadership excellence on the part of one or more RRGs in developing new and innovative systems or processes, and/or exceptional leadership by one or more RRGs in the implementation of the Roads Alliance framework.

WINNER: SOUTHERN DOWNS RRG Investment Strategy Refinement & Special Funding Submission

The Southern Downs RRG further developed their comprehensive Road Investment Strategies in accordance with the Roads Alliance Guidelines. This Investment Strategy development provided much needed detail for the RRG when putting together their special funding applications for the regional component of the Roads to Recovery (R2R) funds. The detailed Road Investment Strategies now contribute even further to the effective management of the group's Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS).

INNOVATION IN JOINT PURCHASING AND OR RESOURCE SHARING

A key principle of the Roads Alliance is to enable and encourage RRG members to benefit from joint purchasing and/or resource sharing initiatives. This award aims to recognise innovative practices on the part of one or more RRGs in developing successful joint purchasing and/or resource sharing arrangements.

WINNER: EASTERN DOWNS RRG Regional Fleet Availability Matrix

The Eastern Downs RRG developed a matrix to assist with and enhance the existing practice of joint use of yellow plant and other fleet by neighboring councils within the RRG. The matrix was developed by the Technical Committee to list all fleet and yellow plant items and their respective availability and cost.

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENTS

This award aims to recognise excellence on the part of one or more RRGs in improving the capability of member workforces through various training initiatives or skill transfer programs.

WINNER: SUNROC / COOLOOLA RRG SOI Manager

SunROC / Cooloola RRG presented a simple database program "SOI Manager" as a tool to define and record all details for the development of a Road Investment Strategy for each road in the LRRS in the SunROC/Cooloola RRG. This tool is an excellent method to minimize human resource needs for future updating of the investment strategies.