

THE ROADS ALLIANCE PROGRESS REPORT

JULY 06- JUNE 07



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



On behalf of the Roads Alliance Board, it is my great pleasure to commend the fourth Roads Alliance Progress Report to you.

The Roads Alliance has experienced a very productive and challenging year throughout 2006-07. All Regional Road Groups (RRGs) have been successful in delivering a prioritised five-year works program for input into the Roads

Implementation Program (RIP) Addendum. RRGs have also been busy implementing many new initiatives including the development of joint purchasing arrangements; resource sharing; addressing asset management issues; and undertaking a wide range of training and capacity building exercises.

Key achievements of Roads Alliance members were recognised at the 2007 Roads Alliance Excellence Awards, announced at the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) Infrastructure Symposium in April 2007. Details of award winners are outlined in this report.

The Board and the Roads Alliance Project Team (RAPT) were pleased with the efforts made by the RRGs to progress the Roads Alliance agenda and recognised the growing commitment by all to the development of shared regional visions. It was particularly rewarding for the Roads Alliance team to wherever possible, directly support and assist RRGs make use of the Alliance framework to create a solid foundation and address their own regional requirements.

While Local Government (LG) Reform has created some uncertainty for councils and their district partners, RRGs are reporting that they are remaining on course and are working towards their Alliance commitments. From their perspective it is business as usual, and for many the stronger regional relationships and collaboration developed through the Roads Alliance have put RRG members in the front seat to steer communities through the outcomes of the reform process.

Whatever the conclusion of LG Reform, the Alliance and RRGs will continue to play a pivotal role as local and state government will need to continue working closely together in the delivery of a safe and efficient road network for Queensland communities. The Board recognises the transition and post-election period will be a challenging and intensive time for RRGs. It is essential RRGs remain steadfast in their commitment to the Alliance to ensure the benefits of an alliance framework continue to be realised.

Throughout 2007-08 the focus of the Board and the RAPT will be to continue to support and assist RRGs transition into new arrangements to ensure groups are able to continue in the Alliance. I anticipate that there will be changes in how the Alliance operates, but the fundamental purpose and vision of the Alliance and the importance that both Main Roads and local government place on shared values of trust, mutual respect and collaborative decision making will remain unchanged.

Wherever possible we will conduct business as usual and continue to pursue significant initiatives such as Joint Purchasing and Resource Sharing (JP&RS), asset management and road safety. We are aware that some RRGs will experience little or no change and it is equally important that they are assisted in continuing to pursue their own agendas. It is critical that the Roads Alliance delivers on its commitments and demonstrates that it continues to add value.

On behalf of the Board I would like to acknowledge the people who have ensured the Roads Alliance remained on track during the past year. The Alliance's success is due to the effort and perseverance of many players including mayors, councillors, the chairs of the RRG and Technical Committee Chairs, council engineers, Main Roads representatives and administrative staff.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the RAPT, staffed by Main Roads and LGAQ, who have put in a great effort this year to support the activities of RRGs. A big thank you is extended to this group of dedicated people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hallam', written in a cursive style.

Greg Hallam PSM

Chair, Roads Alliance Board