



# OVERVIEW – THE ROADS ALLIANCE

Queensland's population is growing rapidly and traffic volumes on state and local government roads are dramatically increasing. Road ownership is not a concern to road users, they look to state and local governments to provide a network that meets their needs.

Meeting the community's expectations for increasingly complex and well maintained infrastructure creates challenges beyond the capacity of any one level of government. The Roads Alliance is a partnership based on cooperation that seeks to address these complex and shared challenges and work towards a shared solution.

The Roads Alliance is an innovative partnership between Queensland's state and local governments to create a coordinated approach to road management. It shifts away from managing roads according to traditional, ownership-based functional responsibilities to an outcomes oriented approach.

The Roads Alliance represents 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.

The key objectives of the Alliance are to:

- ✦ maximise economic development and benefits through better funding allocations
- ✦ achieve maximum efficiencies for state and local governments through a combined approach to road network planning and project scheduling
- ✦ invest in improved road management and delivery capability through increased training, advanced technology and systems transfer.

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 32,000 kilometres of public roads, known as the Local Roads of Regional Significance (LRRS).

The LRRS network is made up of roads of similar function owned by state and local governments, for which communities expect both parties to work together to deliver maximum benefits within available resources.

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

Eighteen RRGs comprised of representatives from Main Roads and local governments, have developed regional works programs and will monitor their success with a view

to improving the process over time. The works programs show five-year road network priorities (four years fixed and one year indicative), demonstrating better funding allocations at a regional level.

Notable achievements and potential benefits of the Alliance include:

- ✦ achieving greater efficiencies for state and local government and industry through combined road network planning, project scheduling and JP&RS
- ✦ increasing the focus on road safety and capability
- ✦ investing in improved road management and delivery capability through more training, and better technology and systems.

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

- ✦ reduced cost through improved 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 and utilisation
- ✦ a network approach to investment
- ✦ better and safer roads sooner for the community.

The Roads Alliance continually works toward improving the way priorities are addressed, ensuring the appropriate standard is met and the job is completed on time and within budget. Our local communities and the broader economy benefit through reduced travel costs and improved access to infrastructure. Equally, improvements to regional road networks deliver social outcomes, including improved access to community services such as health and education.

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

# THE ROADS ALLIANCE IN ACTION

## ROADS ALLIANCE STATE-WIDE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Roads Alliance is guided by a state-wide governance model, which 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, their sub-groups and Technical Committees.

The second part provides for the establishment of:

- + the Roads Alliance Board comprising senior officers from Main Roads and the LGAQ
- + a Roads Alliance Project Team (RAPT)
- + committees and working groups for key issue areas including asset management, program development, and JP&RS
- + a RRG Assembly.

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

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE 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 increase the strength of the Alliance
- + ensuring effective governance arrangements are in place at all levels
- + fostering strong working relationships between parties
- + ensuring consistent outputs across the state
- + promoting the principles of the Roads Alliance at state and national levels
- + facilitating innovative programs to improve Alliance processes and supporting initiatives complimentary to Alliance outcomes.

Key Board outcomes during 2006-07 include:

- + a review of capability plans, resulting in the approval of a number of individual funding allocations to RRGs over the next two financial years
- + support for RRG access to Main Roads Digital Video Road (DVR) software
- + approval of a number of LRRS network changes submitted by RRGs
- + in-principle support for local government, Main Roads and Queensland Transport to work towards the development of a regional approach to road safety
- + support for a revised strategy to improve the road asset management capability of RRGs
- + the announcement of a new delivery date for the Hub Project, with a Hub pilot to be held in Brisbane on 26 July 2007 with representatives from Eastern Downs, Far North Queensland and SunROC/Cooloolo RRGs.

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP



### LEFT TO RIGHT:

**Greg Hallam** –  
Executive Director,  
LGAQ (Chair)

**Alan Tesch** –  
Director-General,  
Main Roads

**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





## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE RRG ASSEMBLY?

The RRG Assembly is a forum for RRGs to meet and discuss Roads Alliance implementation and operational matters. Held on a biannual basis, the Assembly enables representatives from 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.

## ALLIANCE ASSEMBLIES

During 2006-07 RRG Assemblies were held in August 2006 at the LGAQ Annual Conference and in April 2007 at the LGAQ Infrastructure Symposium.

### AUGUST 2006 RRG ASSEMBLY

The August RRG Assembly focused on the timelines for the program development cycle; RRG capability plans and funding; communications; and the ongoing operations of the Roads Alliance. RRG presentations were given by Southern Downs RRG and Far North Queensland RRG.

Southern Downs RRG presented on Main Roads assistance in implementing the Alliance methodology; how the road group is instilling consistency into data collection, gap analysis, vision standards; and how the joint knowledge and experience is conveying strategies on program development and asset management.

Far North Queensland RRG presented on the challenges they face, strategies they are using to overcome these challenges; the importance of group coordination to ensure compliance with Alliance principles; and achievements the group has made to date through the Alliance process.

The August Assembly demonstrated a need to improve consistency and timing of messages from the RAPT and the importance of developing the RRG works program and capability plans. The Assembly provided an effective forum for RRG members and Technical Committee Chairs to exchange information and share their experiences with counterparts state-wide.

### APRIL 2007 RRG ASSEMBLY

The April RRG Assembly coincided with the announcement of LG Reform. Consequently, the Assembly was predominantly focused on this announcement, the importance of the Roads Alliance in these challenging times, and the Alliance's future direction, including potential business models and key activities for 2007. Eastern Downs RRG and Far North Queensland RRG presented at the assembly on their respective achievements throughout the year.

Eastern Downs RRG presented on a JP&RS initiative implemented by their Technical Committee. The Group developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and an adaptive Plant Availability Matrix that details each council's plant equipment, availability throughout the year and associated costs.

Far North Queensland RRG presented on the development of their regional asset management strategy. This strategy delivers a coordinated and consistent approach to asset management, providing benefits for all members of the RRG.

The Assembly demonstrated the way forward for the Roads Alliance, highlighting that in challenging times benefits can be achieved through the Roads Alliance.

## EXTENSION OF THE ALLIANCE MOA

The Roads Alliance operating agreement is entitled "Memorandum of Agreement between Local Government Association of Queensland Inc. and The Department of Main Roads for The Main Roads and Local Government Road Management and Investment Alliance." This agreement was established in 2002 and is scheduled to expire at the end of August 2007. An extension to this agreement is being developed by the RAPT. It is anticipated the period of this extension will be 12 months. The extension will allow for the outcomes of LG Reform and any resultant Alliance operational changes that may be needed. A new Roads Alliance agreement will subsequently be developed by Main Roads and LGAQ with a view to executing this prior to August 2008.

