

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Warwick Shire Mayor Cr Ron Bellingham (left) presents The Roads Alliance 2007 leadership excellence award to Main Roads Border District staff Kevin Wright (centre), Mike Holeszko (back, right) and John Corcut (right). Looking on is Warwick Shire Council head of technical services Peter See.

ROADS ALLIANCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Roads Alliance Excellence Awards were presented at the LGAQ Infrastructure Symposium Dinner in April 2007. These awards acknowledge and reward RRGs for their efforts in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Roads Alliance.

LEADERSHIP WINNER- SOUTHERN DOWNS RRG

The Main Roads Border District has provided strong leadership, progressing the objectives of the Southern Downs RRG. Kevin Wright, John Corcut and Mike Holeszko have been key contributors, acting in the spirit of partnership whilst developing processes to facilitate Roads Alliance initiatives. Border District have developed the format for the RRGs Statement of Intent for the LRRS network, which has been adopted by all groups. They have also identified improvements to the program development model, coordinated the distribution of LRRS funding and developed tools to validate data collected for projects in the five-year program.

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENTS WINNER- SOUTH WEST/ WESTERN DOWNS RRG

South West/ Western Downs RRG developed a Works Program Tool to facilitate the most effective process for generating a regional five-year works program. The tool is a series of spreadsheets that identifies appropriate road project data and facilitates report generation. Linking directly with the Roads Alliance program development spreadsheet, the tool minimises workforce requirements and improves capability by delivering

accurate and reliable project and investment information to all members.

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENTS HIGHLY COMMENDED- FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND RRG

Far North Queensland RRG identified the need for an alternative resourcing arrangement for their Technical Committee to address their council engineers' increasing workload.

Through the support of the FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils they recently approved the employment of a full-time engineering technical officer to support the Far North Queensland RRG Technical Committee.

INNOVATION IN JOINT PURCHASING AND RESOURCE SHARING WINNER- WHITSUNDAY RRG

The Whitsunday RRG has undertaken a joint reseal program between three local governments and the Main Roads district. This involved combining their resurfacing requirements and awarding the combined requirements as a single contract.

This program delivered a 20% saving to the councils involved. Several obstacles were overcome during the implementation phase including contractual arrangements for parties' legal rights, and workforce, timing and coordination issues.

RECOGNITION FOR DAWSON WILKIE AND PETER WAY

Dawson Wilkie and Peter Way were honoured for their valuable contributions to the ongoing success of the Roads Alliance.



Dawson has resigned as Director of Engineering Service Townsville City Council, Technical Chairman for North Queensland RRG and president of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Queensland (IPWEAQ) to join the private sector. He was renowned for his energy and professionalism.

Peter retired from his role as Director of City Works, Logan City Council in late 2006. During that time he was also the SouthROC RRG Technical Committee Chair since the inception of the Roads Alliance in 2002. Peter was a true professional to local government and always led by example.

We extend our thanks to Dawson and Peter for their support and commitment to the Roads Alliance.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In addition to the projects and initiatives acknowledged at the Roads Alliance Excellence Awards, there have been a number of other key RRG achievements over the past year.

The Eastern Downs RRG and its Technical Committee have successfully implemented a JP&RS initiative. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Resource Sharing and Plant Availability Matrix potentially benefits all councils and Main Roads within the Eastern Downs RRG. Its primary goal is to make plant items owned by individual councils available for hire to other members of the Eastern Downs RRG. Key objectives include:

- ✦ utilising spare capacity in plant items
- ✦ council ability to meet peak demands without purchasing additional equipment
- ✦ ensuring the use of skilled operators familiar with specific equipment
- ✦ the ability to increase the amount of hire available for specialist equipment when purchased within the region.

This MOU is a clear example of exemplary progress and utilisation of Roads Alliance principles; and demonstrates clear benefits for councils and Main Roads which can be applied to other RRGs.

The Brisbane Metro Alliance has focused on maximising the JP&RS opportunities potentially available to Main Roads Metropolitan District and Brisbane City Council as members of the Roads Alliance. The Group has identified a list of 28 specific technical and procurement issues for detailed investigation over the next 18 months.

To support this review a separate sub-committee has been established with key membership from the strategic procurement units of both organisations. This sub-committee will help drive the investigation and will assist in coordination of activities. The sub-committee will report regularly to the Technical Committee on progress achieved.

Due to the size of the organisations involved the potential opportunities are substantial. Progress achieved will be reported through the Roads Alliance and where possible, any benefits realised will be applied to other RRGs.

WORKING WITH RRGs

Throughout the year all RRGs were provided with the opportunity to attend Roads Alliance Information Forums, held throughout Queensland between February and March 2007. The Information Forums provided an opportunity for all Roads Alliance members to receive up-to-date training in Roads Alliance principles and processes. Participants reported they found the sessions very valuable, with particular interest shown in the potential opportunities available under the Roads Alliance for improved JP&RS between local government and Main Roads. Attendees were also interested in the Roads Alliance's future agenda.

The sessions were jointly presented by Ray Ferdinand and Ross Mensforth from Main Roads, with support from LGAQ staff Mark Piorkowski, Chris Mountford and Bettina Cruise. Over 320 local government representatives and 95 Main Roads staff attended state-wide. During each forum substantial participant feedback was received and a wide range of views were presented. Following the completion of the Information Forums, a special Roads Alliance Board Information Paper was prepared and presented to the Board at its April 2007 meeting.

Importantly the forums provided an opportunity for new staff to become familiar with the Roads Alliance and to explore future possibilities available to RRGs in terms of how they do business. Given the positive feedback received it is likely future forums will be scheduled next year to potentially follow on after the 2008 local government elections.

The RAPT worked closely with RRGs throughout 2006-07, primarily through attendance at RRG and Technical Committee meetings across the state. This important face-to-face interaction has enabled learnings from the various groups to be shared across the Alliance. It has also provided an important communication avenue to address a number of local, regional and detailed issues directly. In addition, the RAPT continued to engage with local government members at major forums such as the LGAQ Annual Conference, the Local Government Infrastructure Symposium and key events held by other organisations such as the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Queensland (IPWEAQ) and Australian Road Research Board (ARRB).





Image courtesy of ARRB Group

NETWORK SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The identification of safety risks on the LRRS network is an increasingly important part of the program development process. Due to the variety of characteristics present on the LRRS network which can impact upon safety, each RRG's focus will vary. RRG members also face differing levels of capability, resource expertise and available systems.

The Roads Alliance, in collaboration with the ARRB Group (formally known as the Australian Road Research Board), has supported the development of a comprehensive road safety risk management package for RRG members. This package assists RRG members in identifying potential high priority road and bridge safety risk sites by using a Road Network Safety Assessment (RNSA) tool and the Road Safety Risk Manager (RSRM) software package. These tools are now available as a combined package called 'NetRISK'.

THE ROAD NETWORK SAFETY ASSESSMENT TOOL

The RNSA tool has been developed to meet the specific needs of the Roads Alliance. It provides a process for network-level inspection and rating to focus attention on locations where road features may play a significant role in influencing the likelihood and/or severity of a crash.

The process serves two main purposes:

- + to assist RRGs to ensure investment is directed in a way that saves the greatest number of lives, and maximises the reduction in injury and property damage crashes
- + to assist RRGs in meeting their duty of care in relation to legal responsibilities.

The RNSA process allows individual RRGs to undertake local-level refinement of the model, ensuring that local conditions and available resources are accounted for.

The announcement of the additional \$10 million funding per annum ongoing by the Minister at the LGAQ Annual Conference held in August 2006, stipulated that the funding was exclusively to improve safety on the LRRS network, which mandated the requirement for RRGs to use the RNSA process in the development of their works program.

With high risk locations identified, RRG members are being funded and trained to use the ARRB Group's NetRISK product. This enables determination of suitable remedial treatments and prioritisation of these works based on the best "Return on Investment" and highest safety gains for available funding. The NetRISK methodology will continue to be on offer for RRG uptake during the remainder of 2007.

THE ROAD SAFETY RISK MANAGER

The focus of the Road Safety Risk Manager (RSRM) is to achieve the maximum road safety benefits for available funding. To ensure this outcome, individual projects are assessed to evaluate their "Return on Investment" in terms of safety risk reduction.

The Road Safety Risk Management methodology developed by ARRB in association with Austroads, is specifically designed to assist road authorities proactively assess road safety projects.

NetRisk

NETRISK IMPLEMENTATION

The Roads Alliance Board has made the provision of training opportunities in the use of RNSA and RSRM a key priority, providing a 50% training subsidy, available to each RRG member's staff. Pleasingly, the uptake by RRG staff also reflects this priority. During 2006-07 ARRB provided the following training:

- + 247 Main Roads and local government staff undertook a comprehensive two-day training course in the use of the tool
- + training courses were undertaken in 18 locations throughout Queensland
- + 44 Main Roads and local government staff undertook refresher courses that were held in Toowoomba, Caboolture, Emerald and Kingaroy.