



Remote Areas Consultative Group Communiqué

Queensland is hosting the Remote Areas Consultative Group (RACG) for the 2015/2016 period and facilitated its first meeting on 4 December 2014. The RACG consists of the four 'remote' jurisdictions comprising Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia and is sponsored by the Chief Executives of the respective jurisdictions. Membership of the RACG consists of representatives from state and territory governments, National Transport Commission (NTC), National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and various sectors of the road freight industry.

The purpose of the RACG is to act as an advisory body to provide a remote areas perspective on proposed and existing road freight reforms.

Summary of key points and meeting outcomes

- **Performance Based Standards (PBS) Level 3 and 4 Standards Review** – RACG to review the Austroads Freight Taskforce report, PBS Level 3 and 4 Standards Review and upon release commence work with the NTC to identify next steps for the development of a policy framework.
- **Tow Truck Steer Axles** – Queensland to complete a paper identifying the main issues related to the tow truck steer axle issues for when towing road trains.
- **Policy Framework for vehicles outside of PBS and other innovative schemes** – NTC has a project to develop case studies of access management decisions to support road managers.
- **Harmonisation of Accreditation Schemes** – As part of the roadworthiness review, NHVR is making improvements to NHVAS. NTC to develop a business case in 2015 to identify the cost of compliance for the land transport industry.
- **Travel information, managing road closures, emergencies and warnings** – Queensland to compile a list of how each jurisdiction manages travel information issues and will circulate the information.
- **National Remote and Regional Transport Strategy** – The National Remote and Regional Transport Infrastructure and Services Forum was held in Alice Springs in May 2014; 140 potential solutions and issues were raised and are being worked through. A strategy document will be developed and distributed to Ministers by May 2015 with a view to finalise the strategy by the end of 2015. Road freight issues will be one key aspect of the strategy.
- **Zonal approach to road train operations and road freight** – Queensland to develop a broad research paper on a zonal approach to road train and road freight operations.
- **Remote and rural roadworthiness related issues** – NTC and NHVR to examine remote and rural roadworthiness issues as part of the current roadworthiness review.
- **Harmonisation of oversize dimensional loads permit conditions** – NHVR to examine permit conditions and jurisdictional notices.
- **Zonal issues and vehicle access for Agriculture** – Initial discussions were undertaken to identify, plan and develop a vehicle access and permitting solution and subsequent policies, for emerging innovations in agriculture vehicle, machinery and equipment designs.
- **Updates** – To enhance knowledge sharing, Jurisdictions, government agencies and representatives provided comprehensive updates on remote areas related work undertaken in their respective areas of work.

The Minutes can be accessed through the TMR and NTC websites.

For further information contact the RACG Secretariat on telephone (07) 3066 2517.