

ROADS AUSTRALIA

President's Report 2013

Roads Australia has continued to grow in 2013, despite constraints within the market. Our membership grew from 94 to 102 this year, including a recent member – the Northern Territory Department of Transport.

Our success is more importantly measured by our contribution to industry and the community. Roads Australia has engaged policy makers in an open partnership. We are not an advocacy organisation, but a supportive participant in the policy making process. Australia's road agencies are all members and their Chief Executives sit on the Roads Australia Board as equals with their industry counterparts. This collaboration with policy makers distinguishes Roads Australia from most other industry associations.

Roads Australia embraces the entire road transport sector – including constructors, consultants, local government, freight, road operators, material and professional services providers, other industry bodies including all of Australia's motoring clubs, professional associations and other industry organisations which are peak bodies in their own right. This is another unique distinction.

Roads Australia has expanded its services to members in almost every area. During the present financial year RA will offer the industry the opportunity to attend more than 70 events - compared with 40, two years ago. Over half of these events are offered without charge to members, including practical workshops and meetings conducted within the road agencies.

Our single table lunches with policy makers continue to be extremely popular. This year a lunch with Minister Emerson was fully subscribed within 20 minutes. On average single table lunches are subscribed within about 30 minutes.

RA's fortnightly news update, RA Insider, now exceeds 5,300 subscribers – up from 4,900 last year and 2,600 some four years ago. Our website typically attracts around 50,000 visits a year. The RA Insider has become the accepted vehicle for management communication throughout our industry. Its success mirrors the evolution of Roads Australia itself. I would like to acknowledge the support we receive from Leighton Contractors, which has been the sponsor of our newsletter almost since its inception. Our success with the Insider is due to this valuable support.

RA is aware that members are facing constrained market conditions. We continue to work with federal and state agencies, including treasuries, to encourage infrastructure expenditure, clear pipeline of projects and identify opportunities and challenges for industry. This is why the Transport Reform Network is so important – as a collective we need to make the case for transport reform and work collaboratively with policy makers. We are also meeting regularly with members to ensure that RA is relevant and provides increased membership value through a range of activities.

The growth in our activities has coincided with a more professional approach to service delivery and this year we received outstanding support from our members despite market constraints, particularly in event sponsorship. The response to our annual events program exceeded our expectations – with more than 90 per cent of events sponsored by members. I particularly acknowledge Altus Traffic, Coffey, Community Training Initiatives, Hyder, and SKM who achieved Patron Status. I would also like to congratulate members who sponsored our activities and policy events – Abigroup, AECOM, Aurecon, ARRB, Beca, BMD, the Boylan Group, Cardno, the Civic Group, Clayton Utz, Coffey, Community Training Initiatives, DPTI, Fulton Hogan, Downer, GHD, Hyder, John Holland, Leighton, Lend Lease, Main Roads WA, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Pitt & Sherry, Queensland Motorways, QTMR, Roads and Maritime Services, SMEC, Thiess, Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond, Transurban, URS and VicRoads.

Policy Achievements and the Transport Reform Network

During 2013, RA expanded its policy initiatives and output, with 24 workshops nationally attended by more than 1,000 members. That's a 150 per cent increase in the number of members attending policy workshops and meetings. Policy workshops consisted of a one day sustainability forum, tendering and procurement, skills shortages, capacity, pipeline of projects, network reliability and maintenance, customer focus, congestion workshop & local government forum. RA was a key partner of important events including the VTAs Freight Week; Sandown Crash Test Day; ALC Conference; ATSE/Infrastructure Australia Conference & the ITS Conference. RA supported International Women's Day and played a key role in stakeholder activities with RMIT University, Monash University, APESMA industry briefings & the CCF Alliance meetings.

RA facilitated a successful CEO Industry Workshop with the Chief Executives of VicRoads and Roads & Maritime Services and 17 construction and consultant companies across Australia to identify key actions and issues from a national perspective in the road transport sector.

RA lodged six major submissions with state and federal governments. These included issues of great importance to industry, including the Metropolitan Planning Strategy in Victoria; the NSW Freight and Ports Strategy, Sydney City Centre Access Strategy & road pricing; the Productivity Commission's Major Project Assessments & the SA Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan. RA took an active role with COAG and is a formal member of the Heavy Vehicle Charging & Investment (HVCI) Group's Transport Consultative Forum. RA was also a member of the External Reference Group for the South Australian Government's blueprint for the integrated transport and land use plan.

The Capacity Policy Chapter conducted another major industry survey on tender and procurement processes in each State of Australia. This provided valuable information to the Chief Executives of Road Agencies in relation to documentation, tender periods and feedback to industry.

During the year four international speakers visited Australia under RA auspices – Mike Dreznes from the IRF in Washington; Sam Luke from SKM in the UK; Jack Opiola from the USA & Jennifer Aument from Transurban in Virginia. We received valuable support from SKM, the Boylan Group and Transurban for this.

The Transport Reform Network chaired by Dennis Cliche facilitated key workshops and meetings in 2013, including a Breakfast Masterclass with Jack Opiola from the USA on legislative changes in Oregon on road usage charging. In partnership with Consult Australia, the TRN ran a successful workshop on streamlining delivery and value capture – with keynote speaker, Sir Rod Eddington outlining the current state of play in Australia.

The TRN has received extensive media coverage nationally in 2013 and has driven the debate on transport reform with its key members. With more than 5,000 twitter followers and targeted communications, the TRN has been instrumental in raising the debate publicly.

And with the Federal Government's Tax Review and Commission of Audit approaching the time is now for all members to get behind the TRN and support the Government and industry with long term reform of our transport system.

IRF Geneva & IRF World Meeting, Riyadh

In June this year, the Board approved a 6 month secondment for the Chief Executive, Ian Webb, to the International Road Federation in Geneva as Director-General. In return, Roads Australia secured IRF membership for all Roads Australia's members for the next 5 years. Ian is tasked with re-invigorating the IRFs membership, forward program and partnerships. No small feat.

The IRF holds its world meeting every 4 years, with the recent meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 10 – 14 November. Roads Australia's delegation saw key companies and road agencies such as Linking Melbourne Authority, Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure, the Boylan Group International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP), Parson Brinckerhoff, Thiess and John Holland all attend. Australian representatives presented three papers to the IRF World Meeting and received a number of awards. Roads Australia presented to delegates on our partnership model.

Acknowledgments

We congratulate Lauchlan McIntosh on receiving the John Shaw medal in 2013. And this year's recipient of the Roads Australia Award for Technical Excellence will be announced at the Melbourne Christmas Lunch.

On your behalf I thank our two Vice Presidents Tim Boyle and Ken Mathers and all my fellow Board members for the commitment and wisdom they bring to RA. I specifically mention our Chapter Chairs, Dennis Cliche, John Pitt, Brett Smythe and Peter Walton. I also acknowledge Tim Boyle who is retiring from the Board after great service to Roads Australia as a Chapter Chair on Funding and Finance and tireless champion for

our mission. During the year we welcomed two new Board members – Neil Scales and Bruce Munro.

Finally I would like as always to express the Board's and my own appreciation to our members whose enthusiasm for Roads Australia and involvement in its activities is a constant reward to the Board and our dedicated staff lead by our CEO Ian Webb who is supported by a professional team, Donna Findlay, Sarah Hendy, Lauren Streifer, Mark Bowmer, Rachael Rooney and Mandi Mees.

David Stuart-Watt, President

28 November 2013