

MINUTES

Roads Australia Combined Sustainability/Capacity Workshop

Tuesday 18 February 2014

Location: Char Restaurant, 70 Esplanade

DARWIN

Welcome

Ian Webb, Chief Executive, Roads Australia opened the policy workshop with a warm welcome.

Ian introduced Roads Australia, its work (not as an advocacy group, but) as working together directly with the public and private sector throughout the policy development process.

Policy Workshop introduction

Ian introduced Geoff Horni, Director of Road Planning for the Department of Transport with the Northern Territory Government.

Geoff set the scene for the policy workshop by describing the challenges for the Northern Territory road network.

Geoff discussed the increasing volume of roads users, the expectation of carrying more across the network and increasing axle loads on the roads.

Geoff also discussed the harmonisation of technical specifications, stating it may be a lofty ambition, but to pursue what is practical.

Geoff mentioned the long distances to access road building materials (in some cases more than 200 kilometres from the work site) and the increasing scarcity of natural resources.

Geoff challenged the room by asking, should we build to a higher standard or accept the lower standard to achieve more?

Policy Workshop – Part 1

Ian introduced Jay Stricker, Sustainability Chapter Deputy, to facilitate part 1 of the policy workshop.

The objective of Part 1 focused on identifying the key sustainability goals associated with road infrastructure and the road environment in the Northern Territory.

At each table, participants were invited to consider the following questions, to list and then share their responses with the wider group:

1. What is your understanding of sustainability?
2. In thinking about NT roads – what would you like to see change to promote more sustainable outcomes in the design, construction and management of roads?
3. Which are the three most important sustainability issues that you would like to see addressed in a sustainability policy for NT roads and road environment?
4. What do you think are the barriers?

A detailed summary of the responses received during Part 1 are available in the accompanying outcomes and analysis report.

Policy Workshop – Part 2

Jay Stricker introduced Dan Reeve, Capacity Chapter Deputy, to facilitate part 2 of the policy workshop.

The objective of Part 2 considered the capacity of the Northern Territory's private and public sector to address the sustainability issues.

At each table, participants were invited to consider the following questions, to list and then share their responses with the wider group:

5. Given the current level of competition in the market place, are sustainability issues given enough consideration, or does the lowest price drive behaviour?
6. What do you think could be done to improve the implementation of sustainable road construction in the NT?
7. Are there alternative design standards or specifications used by other Australian Road Authorities that could be adopted by DoT NT to provide better sustainability outcomes and achieve cost efficiencies?

A detailed summary of the responses received during Part 2 are available in the accompanying outcomes and analysis report.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Dan summarised the session by highlighting the need for a focus on remote solutions for regional areas, material supplies for remote pavements – in particular environmentally-sensitive solutions, and a funding model that fits regional Australia's needs.

Participants

Jaqui	Bohn	Department of Infrastructure Northern Territory Government	
Daniel	Cameron	Sinclair Knight Merz	Senior Civil Engineer
Brett	Clifford	Department of Transport Northern Territory Government	Senior Transport Analyst
Alana	Court	AECOM	Principal Scientist
Sumesh	Dhir	Department of Transport Northern Territory Government	Senior Project Engineer
John-Paul	Foster	Sinclair Knight Merz	Senior Civil Engineer
Bernie	Francis	Golder Associates	Principal Geotechnical Engineer
Clare	Gardiner-Barnes	Department of Transport Northern Territory Government	Chief Executive
Geoff	Horni	Department of Transport	Director Roads Planning
Brian	Jones	GHD	Principal Civil Engineer
Chandan	Kalase	Department of Transport Northern Territory Government	Senior Project Engineer
Andrew	Kirkman	Department of Infrastructure Northern Territory Government	Acting Chief Executive
Rod	Lambert	Arjays Sales and Services	Managing Director
Raza	Malik	SMEC	Urban Engineering Principal
Mandi	Mees	Roads Australia	Policy Officer
Gerry	Oorloff	Opus International Consultants	NT Business Manager
Tony	Parsons	Cardno	Senior Civil Engineer
Alan	Puhlovich	Golder Associates	Office Manager Darwin
Dan	Reeve	SMEC	General Manager Transport
Mark	Ricketts	Cardno	Area Manager Northern Branches QNT
Sean	Sandford	SMEC	Urban Development Manager - NT
Paul	Shaw	SMEC	Lead Engineer - Tiger Brennon Drive Project
Bryden	Smith	Tonkin Consulting	Project Engineer
Jay	Stricker	AECOM	Industry Director - Transportation
Trevor	Sullivan	SMEC	Regional Director - Northern
Shane	Tepper	Department of Transport Northern Territory Government	Manager, Asset Management
Paul	Turyn	SLR Consulting Australia	Darwin Office Manager
Michael	Visentin	AECOM	Project Manager
Ernie	Wanka	Department of Transport	Executive Director Roads
Ian	Webb	Roads Australia	Chief Executive
Russell	Whale	Transfield Services	Executive Manager Transport Infrastructure & Technology (ITS)