



MINUTES

Roads Australia Technical Specifications and Procurement Roadshow

Wednesday 30 April 2014

Location: Doltone House, Pyrmont, Sydney

Aims and objectives

Following the Roads Australia board workshop and policy alignment session with road agency representatives in early 2014, it was agreed as part of the Communique and outcomes to prioritise and consider:

standardisation and harmonisation of technical specifications and procurement, where possible, including incentives, insurance and materials

The technical specifications and procurement roadshow is the first step to begin the conversation with road agencies, Austroads, ARRB, Standards Australia and RA member companies.

The aim and objectives of these workshops is to involve all relevant players within the industry to provide feedback and real life examples to consider which technical specifications could be standardised and/or harmonised to drive innovation, reduce the cost of infrastructure and work collaboratively across jurisdictions.

The first roadshow workshop in Sydney is the beginning of a series of roadshow workshops across Australia that will form the basis for an end-of-year report to Austroads and State Agency reps for consideration of standardisation and harmonisation of technical specifications across jurisdictions where possible.

Roads Australia is undertaking this initiative in collaboration with all relevant players in the industry and looks forward to feedback from relevant parties. The outcomes and analysis report from each of the sessions will become a 'living document' for feedback.

Welcome and update

David Stuart-Watt, President of Roads Australia welcomed participants to the first roadshow event on technical specifications and procurement. David outlined that technical specifications and procurement was the number one priority for road agencies and Roads Australia members in 2014. It was agreed in early January as part of the policy alignment session with road agencies that harmonisation and standardisation of technical specifications would be considered to reduce costs, where possible.

This report is the beginning of the journey and is a living document to ensure all proposals and views from members are considered where possible.

Andy Milazzo, Chair, Austroads & Deputy Chief Executive, DPTI

Andy Milazzo gave a brief overview and history of Austroads. Andy noted that Austroads is currently in the process of updating its Strategic Plan.

To download copies of the Austroads Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016, please visit:

<http://www.austroads.com.au/about-austroads/strategic-plan-2012-2016>

Andy also noted that the next Austroads meeting will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand at the end of June 2014 and that technical specifications has been noted for discussion on the agenda.

The standardisation and harmonisation of technical specifications has been considered and reviewed by Austroads over many years. Sometimes issues stand in the way, whether that be agencies or industry. It is often noted that changes will see both winners and losers.

Standardisation of asphalt specifications is an example of where Austroads led the work, however, some parts of industry resisted these changes.

We must recognise this journey as tough and work together to achieve the best outcomes overall.

Andy stressed that the survey results offered a good starting point for discussion, however, we want a focussed area of work to add value.

Dan Reeve, Deputy Chair, Capacity Chapter and General Manager, Transport – SMEC

Dan provided an overview of the technical specifications survey results completed by participants.

The survey was prepared to provide participants and agencies to gather initial feedback as a starting point for these discussions. We also wanted a balanced response so the questions were framed around specifications:

- Practicality
- Value for Money (VfM), and
- Alignment with best practice.

To access the 2014 RA Technical Specifications Survey Results, please visit

www.roads.org.au/publications

The survey saw 125 respondents in total, however, not all respondents answered all questions. There was a good spread across the states from respondents which will assist in building on the survey results and preparing the final report in coming months.

Dan outlined each of the results in line with practicality, VfM and alignment with best practice.

Respondents outlined a number of suggestions for harmonisation of technical specifications, including:

- General conditions and forms of contracts
- Asphalt specs and sealing
- Road pavement materials
- Traffic control, and
- Roadside barriers and hardware.

General comments provided as part of the survey include:

- Many specs don't reflect best practice
- Length of specs has grown larger over time
- Lack of harmonisation across states makes it difficult for industry, and
- Consider performance based specifications to drive innovation & VfM.

It is important to note that the Technical Specifications Survey is a starting point for these discussions and not the end. RA encourages participants to continue to be involved with each of the roadshow events.

Further roadshows are planned for:

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| ✓ | Brisbane | 3 July 2014 |
| ✓ | Melbourne | 30 July 2014 |
| ✓ | Adelaide | August 2014 |
| ✓ | Perth | August 2014 |

A final report will be prepared in collaboration with Austroads, Standards Australia, RA members and agencies for consideration as part of ongoing work with Austroads.

Breakout session 1 – Technical Specifications

Participants were asked to work in groups on specified questions to indicate which specifications could be considered for standardisation and in what order of priority you would list them. Other questions asked for examples of duplication of specs, examples from international jurisdictions, new and/or recycled materials, pavement specifications and general comments.

Please refer to the attached outcomes and analysis document which shows the detailed responses from each group. Key themes raised in this session include:

- Asphalt specifications
- Pavement specifications
- Roadside barriers/wire rope safety barriers/temporary barriers
- Traffic management/control at worksites
- Signage
- Recycled/warm asphalt

Breakout session 2 – Procurement

Over lunch, participants were asked to complete a worksheet on procurement providing examples and feedback on the briefing process up to close of tender, after close of tender, assessment and award of contracts. Please refer to the attached outcomes and analysis document for detailed responses. Key themes raised as part of this session include:

- Dual ECI in QLD is successful and slowly being adopted by other states
- Too many addenda
- Open, honest and specific feedback very useful
- Non-price criteria feedback is sanitised and limited in scope
- Generally feedback after close of tender is robust and helpful
- Standard of documentation is generally good, however, it is not always provided at the beginning of the process
- Involving suppliers and consultants at design stage will provide better value for money
- More transparency as to the evaluation criteria and weighting

- Consideration of pre-qualification for consultants similar to the contractors, and
- Consider models such as Alliances.

Interactive Panel Session with Road Agency Representatives

An interactive panel session, facilitated by Andrew Bethune from Hyder Consulting, was held over the lunch with:

- Peter Todd, Chief Operating Officer, VicRoads
- Andy Milazzo, Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport & Infrastructure
- Paul Smith, Deputy Director-General, Transport and Main Roads, and
- Geoff Fogarty, Director, Infrastructure Development, Roads and Maritime Services.

Each of the road agency representatives spoke for ten minutes on what has been happening within their jurisdiction including the collaborative work of agencies and Austroads.

A number of questions and areas were identified during this session. Road agencies want to know what the blockages are. It was noted that more than 40 years ago, specifications were around 40 pages in length, now they can be around 200 pages in length. This evolution over time has come about due to a range of advances/changes within agencies, but also requested by industry to be more prescriptive (at the time).

A number of questions were identified by audience members and technical specifications that could be harmonised, a short list has been identified below:

- Consideration of performance based standards
- Traffic control at work sites
- Road safety barriers
- Pavement materials
- Standard conditions of contract
- Asphalt and seal spray
- Duplication/regulation (concrete specs, are we over prescribing?)
- Noise walls

- Specifications provide VfM and sometimes need to be prescriptive
- Wire rope posts
- Guard rails/heights of posts
- Roadside, equipment and civil costs
- Consideration of Australian approval authority for roadside furniture, safety barriers etc.
- Concrete pipes, and
- Fast track approval for new products.

Please refer to the Outcomes and Analysis report which provides greater detail from each of groups/participants on the day.

General Discussion & wrap up

Each of the representatives from road agencies and Austroads agreed that the first workshop is the beginning of the conversation regarding harmonisation and/or standardisation of technical specifications where possible to reduce the cost of infrastructure.

Each of the agency representatives and Austroads will consider the specifications raised to look at possible harmonisation.

Some of the key themes raised in breakout session 1 for consideration include:

- Roadside barriers/wire rope safety barriers/temporary barriers
- Traffic management/control at worksites
- Asphalt specifications
- Pavement specifications
- Signage
- Recycled/warm asphalt

Next meeting

The next Policy Industry Luncheons on technical specifications and procurement will be held at:

- Thursday 3 July from 9.30am – 2.30pm @ Customs House, 399 Queen Street, Brisbane, and
- Wednesday 30 July from 9.30am – 2.30pm in Melbourne.

Participants

| Firstname | Surname | Organisation |
|-----------|------------|--|
| David | Allen | Rocla |
| Wije | Ariyarante | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Jarrad | Barkley | Boral Quarries & Recycling (NSW/ACT) |
| Brian | Bestwick | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Andrew | Bethune | Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd |
| Bill | Blenkey | Boral Concrete |
| Dougall | Broadfoot | Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) |
| Graham | Brown | Euro Civil |
| Robert | Brown | Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd |
| Simon | Bruce | StabilCo |
| Paul | Cammins | Rocla |
| Russell | Crabb | Boral Asphalt |
| Mike | Cush | Roads and Maritime Services |
| John | Derwin | John Holland Group |
| Peter | Douglas | Pitt&Sherry |
| Charles | Durham | DURHAM Drainage Products |
| Peter | Ellis | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Greg | Evans | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Bronwyn | Evans | Standards Australia |
| David | Farah | Australian Construction Products |
| Omar | Faruqi | Salini Impregilo |
| Sara | Fathieh | Boral Construction Materials |
| Greg | Fell | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Donna | Findlay | Roads Australia |
| Geoff | Fogarty | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Luke | Gallagher | Ingal Civil Products |
| Ben | Guy | Urban Circus |
| Chris | Harrison | RMS |
| Alan | Hay | The Boylan Group |
| Owen | Hayford | Clayton Utz |
| Jason | Hazell | Jacobs SKM |
| Vic | Hensley | Lend Lease |
| John | Hodgkinson | Tasman Associates |
| Russell | Hood | Hill & Smith |
| Scott | Johnston | APP Corporation |
| Rick | Jones | McConnell Dowell |
| Darren | Large | Boral Asphalt |

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| Peter | Letts | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Rick | Lewis | Altus Traffic |
| Robert | Linane | Boral Construction Materials |
| Ian | McLean | A1 Highways |
| Nandini | Mehta | NATSPEC |
| Richard | Merrett | Transurban |
| Andrew | Milazzo | Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure & Austroads |
| Hana | Musa | Boral Asphalt |
| Nial | O'Brien | Aurecon |
| Yee | Ooi | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Zalman | Paris | Rocla |
| Caroline | Perramant | Bouygues Construction Australia |
| John | Pitt | pitt&sherry |
| Scott | Powell | Aurecon |
| Guadalupe | Puig | Ferrovial Agroman |
| Gary | Pullar | John Holland |
| Gordon | Ralph | AECOM |
| Dan | Reeve | SMEC Australia |
| Arjan | Rensen | ARRB Group |
| Graham | Richardson | Hyder Consulting |
| Ed | Rogers | AECOM |
| Craig | Smith | BMD Constructions |
| David | Smith | Downer Infrastructure |
| Paul | Smith | Department of Transport and Main Roads |
| Warren | South | Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia |
| Lauren | Streifer | Roads Australia |
| David | Stuart-Watt | Roads Australia & Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia |
| Peter | Tilley | Bouygues Construction |
| Peter | Todd | VicRoads |
| Richard | Trinder | Boral Construction Materials |
| David | Underwood | Rocla |
| Michael | Veysey | MikeVeyseyConsulting |
| Belinda | Virant | Hyder Consulting |
| George | Vorobieff | Roads and Maritime Services |
| Sue | Walker | CSP Pacific |
| Ian | Webb | Roads Australia |
| Ben | Williams | AECOM |
| Richard | Yeo | ARRB Group |
| Ramy | Youssef | Salini Impregilo |