



## MINUTES

### Roads Australia Technical Specifications and Procurement Roadshow

Wednesday 30 July 2014 @ 9.30am

Leonda by the Yarra, Melbourne

#### 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 in beginning 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 workshops in Sydney and Brisbane are the beginning of a series of roadshows 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 all 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 third 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.



David took the opportunity to announce that since the first industry-agency policy workshop, held in Sydney in April, the Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel has implemented process reforms to reduce the time taken to issue a determination on the status of safety barrier products. For further information on these process reforms please visit [www.roads.org.au/policy](http://www.roads.org.au/policy)

### **Austroads – working across all jurisdictions**

Murray Kidnie, Chief Executive Officer for Austroads attended and spoke at the workshop about collaboration with Roads Australia and working across all Australian jurisdictions. Murray noted the recent workshop held in Sydney was well received and provided great insight in to areas for improvement on technical specifications. Murray encouraged all participants to get involved in the workshop and put forward good ideas.

### **Survey findings and first workshop – technical specifications survey**

Dan Reeve, General Manager – Transport for SMEC provided an overview of the results of the technical specifications survey completed by participants and noted the key outcomes of the workshops held in Sydney and Brisbane.

The survey was prepared to allow 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 & minutes and outcomes of the workshops in Sydney and Brisbane, please visit [www.roads.org.au/policy](http://www.roads.org.au/policy)

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.

Scott 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.

A further roadshow is planned for Perth on 26 September 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.

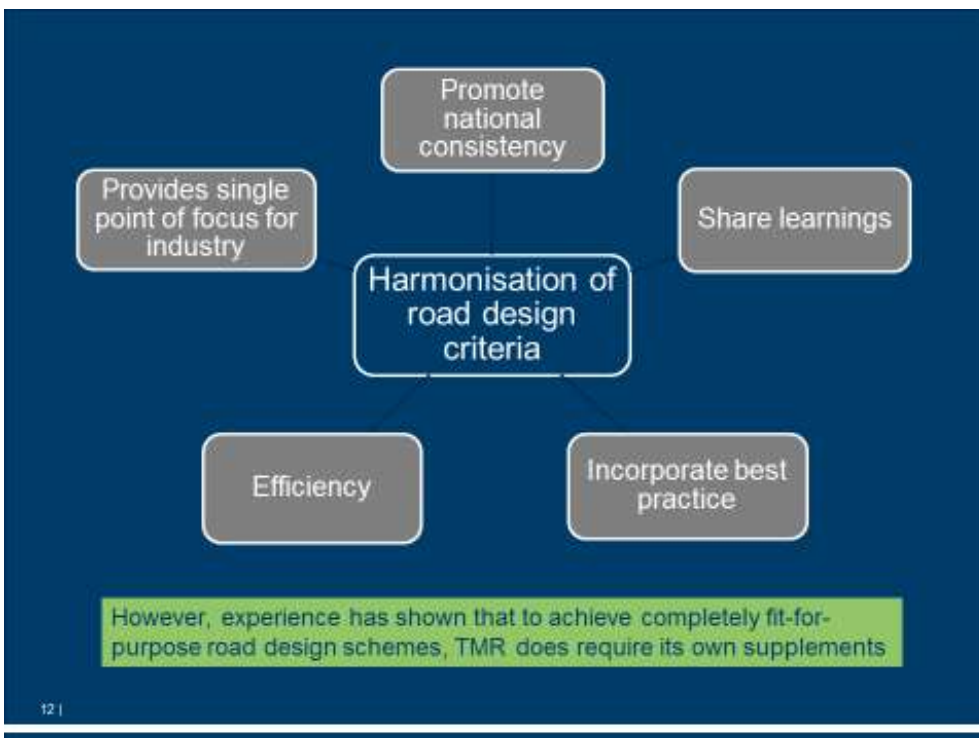
### **QTMR update on technical specifications and Value for Money**

Paul Smith, Deputy Director-General, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads provided a short update to participants on the progress of priority actions from the Value for Money workshop held with industry in November 2013 and what QTMR is doing to reduce the overall cost of infrastructure.

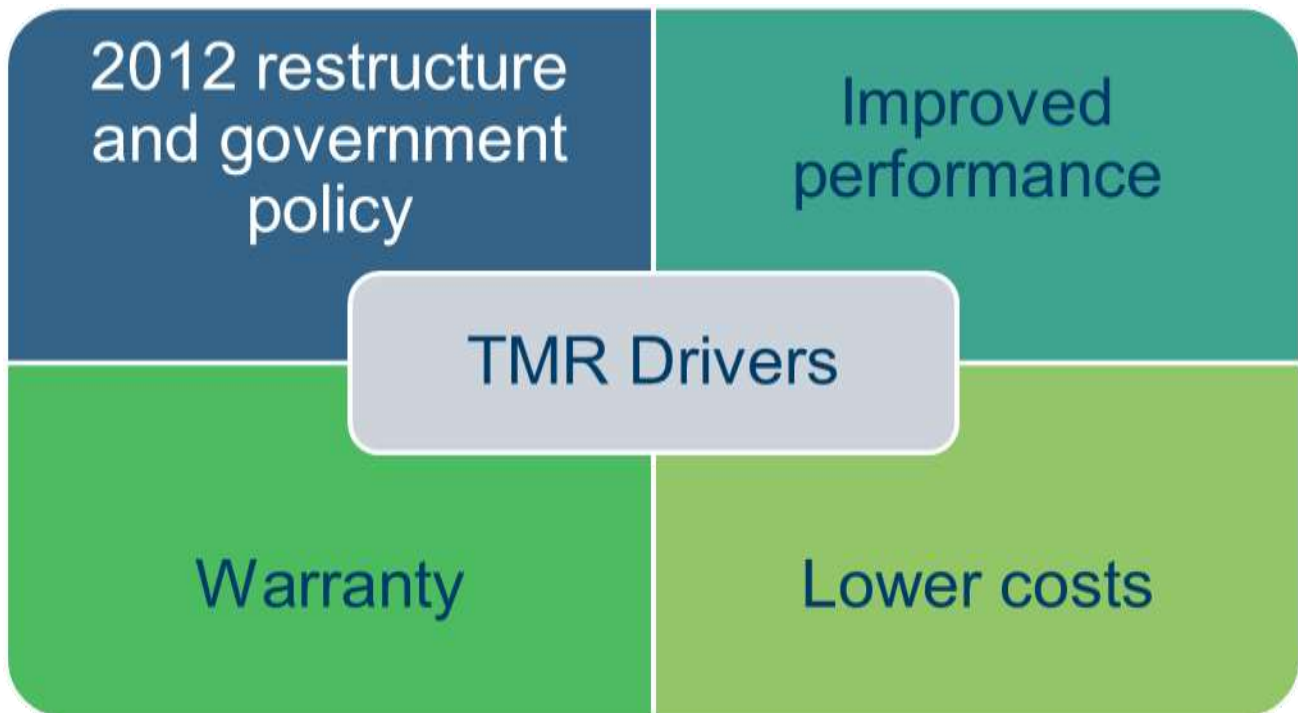
Key areas focussed on strategies to reduce the cost of infrastructure and changes to specifications, processes and guidelines.

Please see key slides below. To access the full presentation, please visit [www.roads.org.au/policy](http://www.roads.org.au/policy)

Six groups of initiatives to reduce costs



Asphalt harmonisation with RMS



Advantages

- Lower cost Mix Design Registration
  - Supplier fully responsible for production based mix design
  - Reduced time and cost
  - More consistent approach
- Enables new technologies
  - Increased use of RAP
  - Increased use of WMA
- Permits removal of waterproofing seal below dense graded asphalt wearing surfaces
- Two year warranty for asphalt – held under separate deed.

## **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, asphalt 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:

- Roadside barriers/wire rope safety barriers/temporary barriers
- Traffic management/control at worksites
- Asphalt specifications
- Pavement specifications
- 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:

- Too many/late 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
- More transparency as to the evaluation criteria and weighting
- Better upfront planning
- Delegate to departmental staff and keep the projects out of political cycles



- Time taken to respond to queries

### **Interactive Panel Session with Road Agency Representatives**

An interactive panel session, facilitated by John Dignam from Ingal Civil Products, was held over the lunch with:

- Peter Todd, Chief Operating Officer, VicRoads
- Paul Smith, Deputy Director-General, Transport and Main Roads, and
- Greg Evans, Director, Asset Maintenance, Roads and Maritime Services.

Road agency representatives spoke for 10 minutes on what has been happening within their jurisdiction including the collaborative work of agencies and Austroads.

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
- Managing risk as part of performance based standards
- Road safety barriers
- Pavement materials
- Standard conditions of contract
- Duplication/regulation (concrete specs, are we over prescribing?)
- Specifications provide VfM and sometimes need to be prescriptive
- Design process for 12D
- Minimising local supplements
- Roadside, equipment and civil costs
- 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 series of workshops is the beginning of the conversation regarding harmonisation and/or standardisation of technical specifications where possible to reduce the cost of infrastructure.

### **Next meeting**

The next policy industry workshop on technical specifications and procurement will be held in Perth on 26 September.





**Participants**

MANDI PLEASE FILL IN ATTENDEES