

MINUTES

Roads Australia Technical Specifications and Procurement Roadshow

Friday 26 September 2014 @ 8.30am

Fraser's, Fraser's Avenue, Kings Park, Perth

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, Brisbane, Melbourne and now Perth, 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 fourth 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

Main Roads WA – Report back on 2013 Traffic Congestion Workshop

Des Snook, Executive Director, Road Network Services, Main Roads WA provided an overview of the themes and recommendations resulting from the 2013 Traffic Congestion Workshop held in Perth.

Research with UK-based agencies was conducted to better understand congestion measures suitable for Western Australia.

Des noted the observations received during the research, including single point accountability to prioritise road space, network operations priority to get the best use of the ‘strategic road network’ and intense traffic management and network operations required as traffic congestion increases.

Aligns with Recommendations from Roads Australia Workshop 

Common Themes between Workshops and findings from UK Visit

- Appoint Single Network Manager to address competing priorities between agencies
- Develop a long term multi-modal Transport Plan
- Budgetary Constraints – actions
 - Short Term – improve SCATS coordination
 - Long Term – funding for ITS and Public Transport
- Improve Communications with Public
- Provide Additional resources for Road Network Operations
- Traffic Signal Optimisation – SCATS/Cycle times
- Introduce more Clearways and Towing for offenders
- Demonstration Projects to show benefits

Des described common themes between workshops and the UK findings, discussed Main Roads WA organisational capability to manage traffic congestion and where the strategy of the Main Roads WA traffic congestion program will focus. Des concluded presenting examples of arterial and freeway optimisation achievements and CBD traffic management measures.

Building the case for customers – ITS update

Phil Davies – Deputy Chair of the Network Reliability Chapter for Roads Australia presented policy chapter objectives, RA member engagement and a discussion paper on the transformation of road agencies towards customer service orientated organisations that respond to the road user.

Phil highlighted that road users have growing influence on how road space is prioritised, have expectations that exceed budgets and the need to communicate the true cost of travel.



Customer (road user) expectations examined in the report included:

- Expect more out of *their* transport assets
- Perceive *their* road network is not good quality
- Don't understand what they pay for (or indeed what they pay full stop)
- Want cheaper roads and less congestion
- Want journey reliability; and
- Value transparency and predictability.

Phil provided an update on intelligent transport systems (ITS), including insight from policy chapter events held in 2014.

In summary, Phil described the take up of technology as slow, the huge interest in understanding the impacts of growing ITS capability across the world and how it might inform a vision for industry in Australia, an approach where performance can be measured.

Road safety at work sites – innovation and action

Lars Rasmussen, Manager, Operations West, Services Division, Leighton Contractors discussed the best possible solutions for the protection of workers and the public at road work sites.

Lars detailed the safety essentials for worker safety by 'looking inwards' to identify below and above the line measures to control, minimise, isolate and eliminate safety risks for workers near live traffic; and by 'looking outwards' when considering road user safety to manage expectations, visual impact, keeping work zone tight and compliance.

To reduce the safety risk at work site, Lars summarised a number of techniques to employ and concluded the presentation with options on how to take massive action which include educating teams, driving the right behaviour, nurturing a risk aware culture, aligning standards and codes of practice and increased collaboration across industries and agencies to identify innovative solutions together.

Maintenance – driving value for money and innovation

Michael Bushby, Chair of the Roads Australia Network Reliability Chapter discussed the road network outcomes of accessibility, efficiency, safety, reliability and environmental responsibility.

When driving value for money (and innovation), Michael compared planning and performance monitoring applied via traditional delivery models – where the contractor is responsible for project execution and the client is responsible for program formulation, with alliance models – where the alignment of client and contractor objectives aim to achieve optional results.

Michael described three strategic approaches to increase value for money and drive innovation:

1. Delivery efficiency – where incremental improvement and small gains can be achieved
2. Asset Management Effectiveness – where incremental improvements and significant leverage can be achieved
3. Contextual Change – levels of service and level of funding are balance and can be game changing.

Michel described many innovative techniques Leighton Contractors are employing across the services business to incorporate innovation and achieve value for money for clients in areas such as delivery efficiency, transport efficiency, road safety and reliability.

Michael closed the session by discussing road funding, describing conditions are never good for maintenance and compared Australia's situation with the United States by reviewing the highway trust fund forecast shortfall and describing the calls for reform evident in Australia.



Survey findings – Technical Specifications and Procurement

Donna Findlay, Policy Director, Roads Australia 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, Brisbane and Melbourne.

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, Brisbane and Melbourne, please visit 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.

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

Main Roads WA update on technical specifications and Value for Money

Leo Coci, Executive Director, Infrastructure Delivery, Main Roads WA provided a short update on the specifications complexity by describing the types of specifications, discussing the role of standard and the case for harmonisation.

Leo concluded the presentation by discussing the harmonisation challenge for Western Australia.



To access the full presentation, please visit www.roads.org.au/policy

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
- Tender briefings are thorough, but only useful if new information is provided
- Open, honest and specific feedback is very useful
- Generally feedback after close of tender is well done and helpful, though more feedback from smaller project tenders could be offered
- Standard of documentation is superior to other industry sectors, however, it is not always provided at the beginning of the process
- Assessment and award period in some cases is too long
- More transparency as to the evaluation criteria and weighting
- Better upfront planning
- Better use of website to manage tender company's frequently submitted information – such as relevant experience, management and personnel information

Interactive Panel Session – Technical Specifications & Procurement

An interactive panel session, facilitated by Abra DeKlerk, Area Manager WA, AECOM was held over the lunch with:

- Stephen Troughton, Managing Director, Main Roads WA
- Nick Combe, General Manager Infrastructure WA/SA/NT, Leighton Contractors

Each representative 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 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.

Participants

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Terry	Bailey	Main Roads WA
Philip	Barker	McConnell Dowell
Jim	Beesley	Australian Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA)
Mark	Beiers	John Holland Group
Paul	Biggs	Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd
James	Body	John Holland Group
Mark	Bondiatti	WALGA
Stephen	Bullent	Aquenta Consulting
Michael	Bushby	Roads Australia
Paul	Campbell	DownerMouchel
Leo	Coci	Roads Australia
Nick	Combe	Roads Australia
Colm	Conneely	Maca Civil
Jeremy	Connor	Maca Civil
Raymond	Cook	Cardno
Stephen	Critchley	McConnell Dowell
Peter	Damen	ARRB Group Ltd
Philip	Davies	Roads Australia
Abra	DeKlerk	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Maurice	Dessauvagie	Maca Civil
Frits	DeVries	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd
Jamie	Falzon	Maca Civil
Christina	Favrington	McConnell Dowell
Neil	Ferguson	McConnell Dowell
Donna	Findlay	Roads Australia
Etienne	Fourie	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Soumya	Ganguly	Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond
Sohaila	Habibi	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Carl	Hayward	DownerMouchel
Menno	Henneveld	Menno Henneveld Consulting
Roger	Highfield	Maca Civil
Graham	Holden	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Andrew	Ince	Andrew Ince
Craig	Irvine	Maca Civil
Jonathan	Jacobs	Tracey Brunstrom & Hammond
Julia	Johnson	BMD Group
Peter	Jordan	URS Australia
Michael	Kakulas	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
James	Lawrence	Maca Civil

Robert	Liddle	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Jim	McNeill	GHD Pty Ltd
Price	Michael	Arup Pty Ltd
Chris	Morlidge	DownerMouchel
Brett	Mottolini	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd
Dave	Murphy	DownerMouchel
Gaff	Murray	DownerMouchel
Graeme	Nicholls	Main Roads WA
Phil	Nichols	Parsons Brinckerhoff
John	Oliver	DownerMouchel
Taylor	Phillip	Arup Pty Ltd
Lars	Rasmussen	Roads Australia
Will	Roberts	John Holland Group
David	Rose	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
Clinton	Rudd	DownerMouchel
Maryely	Rueda	ARRB Group Ltd
Robert	Ryan	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd
Meda	Sicoe	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd
Des	Snook	Roads Australia
David	Stevens	Hyder Consulting Pty Ltd
Thomas	Stevenson	Coffey
Kobus	Strachan	DownerMouchel
David	Stuart-Watt	Roads Australia
Patrick (Pat)	Tinnelly	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd
Stephen	Troughton	Roads Australia
Maren	Umbach	GHD Pty Ltd
Judith	Uren	BG&E Pty Limited
Gideon (Deon)	Viljoen	AECOM Australia Pty Ltd
William	Wallace	Maca Civil
Julian	Walters	Coffey
Andrew	White	Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd
Guy	Wilkinson	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Anthony	Wood	BG&E Pty Limited
Stephen	Zorab	DownerMouchel