



3 February, 2023

DITRDCA,
GPO Box 594,
Canberra,
ACT 2601
Australia
(submitted by online lodgement)

Response to Draft Principles for a National Approach to C-ITS in Australia

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Draft Principles for a National Approach to C-ITS in Australia. Roads Australia is pleased to make the following points.

Introduction

Roads Australia (RA) is Australia's peak body for roads within an integrated transport system. We bring industry, government and communities together to lead the evolution of Australia's roads, integrated transport and mobility networks.

The nation's only roads champion, Roads Australia's 150+ members include all of Australia's road agencies, major contractors and consultants, motoring clubs, service providers and other relevant industry groups. Roads Australia strives to achieve a robust integrated transport system that values and invests in all land transport modes, including roads, vehicles, freight, public transport, rail, cycling and walking. Roads Australia upholds the principles of a safe, inclusive, sustainable, economic and socially valuable roads industry for all Australians.

Comments

RA welcomes the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts putting forward these draft principles and coordinating the work of Australian governments in this field.

The use of C-ITS is strongly supported by RA for the improved outcomes in safety for road users and the workers on the road, road asset management and stewardship, the optimal use of finite road space and for environmental and decarbonisation goals. There are undoubtedly additional positive outcomes that can come from the use of this technology that we are not yet aware of.

These recommended draft principles will hopefully alleviate some of the lack of national consistency in the past that has impacted road data collection. For example, in 2018, insufficient and inconsistent data in relation to serious injuries from road crashes was called out as an issue in the [Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020](#). This is now being corrected through the National Road Safety Data Hub.

RA's submission to the [Productivity Commission's 5 Year Review](#) included a recommendation for a nationally consistent approach to the management of privacy of individuals in relation to data collection. This should not be only seen in relation to data collected solely through C-ITS based technology, but all current and future data pools, both public and private, that can deliver significant insights and assistance to the management



of our transport systems.

The RA Submission to the Productivity Commission also highlighted where data collection is also providing asset managers with improved confidence on the impacts of access for heavy and longer vehicles. TfNSW has put in place [short-term improvements](#) to Sheahan Bridge that are allowing it to approve, through permit, Higher Productivity Vehicles. While the solution here is a simple one compared to the possibilities of C-ITS across the network, it is one example about how technology can be applied to improve road asset utilisation.

RA is also aware of a number of ITS-based systems to improve safety at road work sites that are in use internationally or have recently been introduced into Australia. These include Automated Early Warning Systems for workers as well as live information and communications systems for road users. National consistency of approval and acceptance of ITS-based safety equipment will help with the roll-out of these life-saving innovations across Australia.

In September 2022, a delegation including ITS Australia and [RA representatives](#) visited Michigan, where they attended the Detroit Motor Show and the ITS World Congress which was held in Los Angeles. During their time there they saw the work of a number of ITS and mobility-based research labs and heard from world leaders in the field. A key theme, especially from California, was the focus on equity as an outcome from decision making. This is something that should be considered as C-ITS is further developed in Australia and potentially included in any business cases put forward.

Should your office wish to discuss this matter, I can be contacted on 0418 627 995 or michael@roads.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kilgariff', written in a cursive style.

Michael Kilgariff
Chief Executive Officer