

15 March 2019

**Roads Australia Submission**  
To the COAG Hydrogen Working Group

Roads Australia is pleased to make this submission in support of the development of a National Strategy for Hydrogen.

**About Roads Australia**

Roads Australia is a not-for-profit, non-political industry association whose 150+ members include all of Australia's road agencies, major contractors and consultants, motoring clubs, service providers, and relevant industry groups. A list of Roads Australia members is attached. Roads Australia does not advance sectional interests. Instead, Roads Australia serves as an indispensable focus group, bringing together road and transport agencies and industry players to engage on practical policy issues that are - at their core - about delivering the best transport outcomes for all Australians.

**Submission**

Roads Australia welcomes the opportunity to support the 19 December 2018 decision by the COAG Energy Council to support the Chief Scientist's proposal to develop a National Hydrogen Strategy in 2019.

In September 2018, Roads Australia led a delegation of senior government and industry leaders on a study visit to investigate how major Asian national and city governments were developing their city transport networks to cope with population growth, liveability and changing demographics. The report on this study visit *Cities for the Future Report 2018*<sup>1</sup> made a number of observations that are very relevant to the development of the National Strategy for Hydrogen. Electric Vehicle introduction is strongly supported by manufacturers and governments in Japan and South Korea. While this is understandable given the importance of the international vehicle export markets for these countries, the Roads Australia delegation concluded that Japan see electric vehicles as an interim stepping stone to a Hydrogen Fuel Cell powered vehicle future. Japan sees a world after 2025 where the country produces its own transport fuel through the home manufacture of hydrogen.

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<sup>1</sup>Roads Australia Cities for the Future Report 2018  
<https://roads.org.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=j7u2FMiSClg%3d&portalid=3>

South Korea is also at the forefront of hybrid and EV development in the world, with Hyundai vehicles winning both the Hybrid and EV awards for best in class in recent years. Despite the significant investment in both technologies by the private OEMs, the South Korean government has established a strategic goal of introducing Fuel Cell (hydrogen) powered buses, with large trials of Fuel Cell powered buses underway. Like Japan, South Korea intends to move to a fully Hydrogen powered fleet, as Fuel Cells are mass produced, and is focused on a future where the country produces its own transport fuel through the manufacture of Hydrogen.

The *RA Cities for the Future Report 2018* recommended that:

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*As a potential producer of Hydrogen for our own transport fuel needs in the future, Australia should take the opportunity to collaborate with Japan and/or South Korea as Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology develops.*

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This recommendation is strongly aligned with the *National Hydrogen Strategy, Request for Information – Discussion Paper*<sup>2</sup> which highlights that the most immediate economic opportunity for Australia is to establish itself as the hydrogen supplier of choice to Japan and other nations such as South Korea.

The Roads Australia delegation was impressed by the high level national government collaboration with industry and academia that informs the transport agenda for our near neighbours. We strongly encouraged the Australian government to take the role as lead collaborator in development of long-term, people-oriented transport outcomes, through the *Cities for the Future Report 2018* recommendation:

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*In Australia, while we acknowledge the challenges set by our federation, there are many areas where our current state-by-state approach to strategic transport planning will leave us behind our neighbours. There are many academic institutions working on these important issues, however stronger collaboration and strategic support at the Federal Government level is needed to focus and leverage their efforts.*

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Roads Australia therefore commends the decision by COAG Energy and Resources ministers to strongly support the collaborative development of a hydrogen industry in Australia. As noted in the paper, this will build on the efforts made by individual jurisdictions to date, the work of pioneering Australian researchers and entrepreneurs, and overseas governments and investors who are already working to build an industry.

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<sup>2</sup> COAG Energy Council

[https://consult.industry.gov.au/national-hydrogen-strategy-taskforce/national-hydrogen-strategy-request-for-input/supporting\\_documents/nationalhydrogenstrategyrequestforinputdiscussionpaper.pdf](https://consult.industry.gov.au/national-hydrogen-strategy-taskforce/national-hydrogen-strategy-request-for-input/supporting_documents/nationalhydrogenstrategyrequestforinputdiscussionpaper.pdf)

COAG has recognised that building a commercial hydrogen industry requires jurisdictions to work together, in partnership with industry and the community, and with our export customers. To this end Roads Australia makes the following recommendation:

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*Roads Australia recommends that COAG considers the establishment and funding of a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Hydrogen Production as a key element of the National Hydrogen Strategy.*

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While it is acknowledged that the initial focus of the National Hydrogen Strategy will be on leveraging Australia's opportunities to supply the future global hydrogen export market, Roads Australia believes the work on hydrogen production for use in the national transport fleet to be equally important. Therefore, we commend the establishment of *Working Group 2: Hydrogen for Transport*.

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*Roads Australia recommends that COAG consider inviting Roads Australia and other relevant transport industry peak bodies to participate in Working Group 2: Hydrogen for Transport.*

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This working group should have a strong transport industry involvement to ensure that Australia is positioned to leverage early productivity and environmental advantages from the use of locally produced hydrogen, in particular for our heavy vehicle and mass transit fleets. An important consideration for the working group will be researching the international developments of hydrogen fuel cell engine technology – due to spread of vehicle imports across USA, European and Asian manufacturers. Roads Australia makes the following recommendation to ensure early consideration is given to these issues:

For more information about this submission please contact Michael Kilgariff at [michael@roads.org.au](mailto:michael@roads.org.au) or 03 9821 5255.

Yours sincerely



Michael Kilgariff  
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**Roads Australia**

## Roads Australia Members



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