



INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

FRIDAY, 11 February 2022

The 16th meeting of Infrastructure and Transport Ministers was held today. Membership comprises Infrastructure and Transport Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories. The Australian Local Government Association and National Transport Commission were also present.

MAKING OUR ROADS SAFER

National Road Safety Action Plan

Ministers noted concerns raised by stakeholders on the draft National Road Safety Action Plan 2021-25 and agreed to further engagement by the Commonwealth with stakeholders and all jurisdictions to revise and strengthen the Action Plan. Ministers will consider a revised Action Plan at the second meeting of Ministers in 2022.

Recognising the importance of data to inform and measure road safety outcomes associated with infrastructure investments, Ministers recognised the Office of Road Safety is working with state and territory governments to establish a national Data Sharing Agreement to formalise and complement road safety data already being provided as well as identify and address any gaps. Ministers agreed the Commonwealth would work with jurisdictions to consider what data sets are required to better inform infrastructure investments and measure their outcomes, with a view to informing future program guidelines and funding agreements. Ministers agreed to consider this at the next ITMM meeting in 2022. In addition, the Commonwealth will work with states and territories to reflect data provision in program guidelines and funding agreements as opportunities arise, consistent with the approach taken for the Road Safety Program.

National Level Crossing Safety Strategy

Ministers welcomed an update on the development of the new National Level Crossing Safety Strategy 2022-2031 and agreed a framework to inform the Strategy and its three year work plan. Ministers recognise that safety at level crossings is a key priority for all levels of government. The new Strategy, which will be finalised in early 2022, will help drive nationally coordinated action to improve safety at level crossings.

IMPROVING HEAVY VEHICLE PRODUCTIVITY

Heavy Vehicle National Law Review

Ministers had a productive discussion on the principles and issues for the Heavy Vehicle National Law Review.

Ministers emphasised the importance of close engagement with industry in developing options to deliver on the objectives of the review for a simpler, risk based law that increases safety and productivity. Ministers agreed the need for further consultation before bringing back more detailed policy work to ITMM for consideration at their next meeting.

FUTURE TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY

Automated vehicles

Ministers agreed that the future Automated Vehicle Safety Law will be implemented through Commonwealth law. This will deliver a nationally consistent regulatory approach and will enable the safe operation of automated vehicles on public roads across Australia. Ministers will make future decisions on drafting instructions for the new law in late 2022 through ITMM. Ministers also agreed that an Intergovernmental Agreement will be developed to support the new automated vehicle regulatory governance arrangements by late 2023.

Ministers agreed that the National Transport Commission and the Commonwealth will work with state and territory governments to develop a consistent approach to complementary legislation and will report back to Ministers in late 2022. Complementary state and territory law amendments will support the national regulatory framework for automated vehicles. The Automated Vehicle Safety Law is expected to commence by 2026.

NATIONAL RAIL ACTION PLAN

National Rail Action Plan - rolling update

Ministers welcomed the rolling update on the National Rail Action Plan (NRAP) and noted the work that had been progressed on the National Rail Skills Hub, development of five new national industry standards and commencement of economic analysis of the benefits to locally manufactured common rail components.

Ministers agreed to a National Rail Interoperability Framework and for the National Transport Commission to further develop the key elements of the framework, which will support governments and the rail industry to consider rail system interoperability for future major rail investments.

REFORMS TO THE DISABILITY TRANSPORT STANDARDS

Ministers confirmed the first 16 areas of reform to the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, which delivers the first step in modernising the standards and improving accessibility of public transport for people with a disability.

Given the substantial number of reforms contained in the second stage as well as needing to finalise implementation and compliance details for all of the reforms, Ministers agreed to extend the timeframe for the project by six months to May 2023. This extension will allow for an extended period of consultation, to ensure the voices of people with a disability and the public transport operators and providers are heard. Ministers will discuss these reforms at their next meeting.



PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Commonwealth)
The Hon Scott Buchholz MP	Assistant Minister for Road Safety and Freight Transport (Commonwealth)
The Hon Kevin Hogan MP	Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister (Commonwealth)
The Hon Robert Stokes MP	Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Cities and Minister for Active Transport (New South Wales)
The Hon Samuel (Sam) Farraway MLC	Minister for Regional Transport and Roads (New South Wales)
The Hon Jacinta Allan MP*	Minister for Transport Infrastructure (Victoria)
The Hon Ben Carroll MP	Minister for Public Transport; Roads and Road Safety (Victoria)
The Hon Steven Miles MP**	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure Local Government and Planning (Queensland)
The Hon Mark Bailey MP	Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Queensland)
The Hon Corey Wingard MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (South Australia)
The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA***	Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports (Western Australia)
The Hon Michael Ferguson MP	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Tasmania)
The Hon Eva Lawler MLA	Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Northern Territory)
Chris Steel MLA	Minister for Transport and City Services; Minister for Skills Special Minister of State (Australian Capital Territory)

*The Hon Jacinta Allan MP was an apology, VIC was represented by the Hon Ben Carroll MP.

**The Hon Stephen Miles MP was an apology, QLD was represented by the Hon Mark Bailey MP.

*** The Hon Rita Saffioti MLA was an apology. WA was represented by Peter Woronzow, Director General, WA Department of Transport.

