

REVIEW OF NATIONAL ROAD SAFETY GOVERNANCE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

A key finding of the 2018 Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy (the Inquiry) was implementation failure. It identified that a lack of focus on a harm elimination agenda has led to unintentional sub-optimal results. Thus recommendation six of the Inquiry is for ‘a national road safety governance review’ to be undertaken, and to report by March 2019.

There is a strong commitment across all levels of government to reduce trauma on our roads and make them safe to travel on. Responsibility for delivery of this commitment is spread across multiple agencies within and across each tier of government. If nothing changes there are clear indications the target set out in the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 will not be met. The review will examine whether Australia has the appropriate governance arrangements in place to deliver the commitments made by governments to mainstream road safety in line with the Safe System approach.

The review will use international best practice, including the World Bank’s Road Safety Management Capacity Review Guidelines, to undertake a practical review of road safety governance in Australia focusing on how our current arrangements support the strong commitments from all jurisdictions and whether the Commonwealth could do more to provide effective support to the jurisdictions. It will be guided by the importance of implementing a systemic, sustained and accountable response to govern road safety at a national level, which will strengthen the approach for implementation of a new strategy.

The review will consider only the effectiveness of institutional management functions. It will not provide advice on program implementation, delivery of interventions or results. While these are beyond the scope of a governance review, they will be considered in the context of the work of the Road Safety Strategy Working Group (RSSWG) commissioned by the Transport and Infrastructure Council, which has tasked the RSSWG to address other recommendations of the Inquiry, commencing with the development of an implementation plan.

Operation

The review will be conducted by the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities with support from the states and territories through the RSSWG and draw on professional external expertise. It will commence Wednesday, 23 January 2019 and report to the first Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting in 2019.

It will be guided by a Transport and Infrastructure Council sub-committee of senior State and Commonwealth transport officials. An independent reference group, consisting of a small number of experts in governance and road safety at a national and international level, will also be established to undertake an independent peer review process to ensure that the Governance Review comprehensively addresses the Terms of Reference.

Reflecting the need for a road safety partnership to support agreed objectives, the review team will consult across the Commonwealth, with all levels of government in Australia, across both the transport and non-transport space in Australia and with TIC bodies (including NTC, ARRB, Austroads, TCA and NHVR). It will also consult civil society and the private sector, recognising the importance of input from the overseas and Australian road safety community.

Scope and key considerations

Assessment of existing arrangements

The review will examine existing arrangements in all jurisdictions including roles and responsibilities within and across local, state, territory and Federal government.

As recommended by the Inquiry, the review will assess these arrangements to consider their effectiveness in delivering the institutional management functions identified by best practice governance principles and methodologies such as the World Bank (results focus, co-ordination, legislation, funding and resource allocation, promotion, monitoring and evaluation, and research and development).

The review will consider who is currently involved in setting direction, making decisions and implementing actions and assessing how existing arrangements can be improved in the context of leadership, coordination and resourcing. It will focus on the effectiveness and efficiency of decision making, implementation and accountability and consider the scope for expanding or improving the role of the Commonwealth in road safety.

International comparison of road safety governance approaches

The review will consider governance arrangements in jurisdictions recognised as international leaders in road safety – including the United Kingdom, Sweden, Netherlands and Norway. It will provide advice on particular elements of these models that could be used in Australia.

The review will also consider what steps are required to position Australia as a leader in delivering on the vision of zero road fatalities by 2050.

Deliverables

The review will map out the specific roles, responsibilities and accountabilities held across agencies and jurisdictions.

The review will identify areas where:

- greater assistance, better coordination and enhanced leadership is required to implement the safe systems approach;
- any governance or institutional capacity barriers or gaps that are impacting the successful implementation of road safety interventions;
- provide advice on improvements to coordination, assessment and the application nationwide of road safety research; and
- opportunities for national consistency in interventions and approaches that would deliver improved road safety outcomes can be leveraged.

The review will provide advice on alternative models or areas for improvement, including whether a new, single national road safety entity is required as recommended in the Inquiry. The review will also make recommendations on the changes necessary to improve Australia's road safety governance structure in order to support the effective design and delivery of interventions to deliver safe roads.

Timelines

The Review will commence Wednesday, 23 January 2019 and a draft report will be released in March 2019 to conduct an independent peer review process and ensure that the Governance Review

comprehensively addresses the Terms of Reference. A final report will be presented to the Transport and Infrastructure Council at its first meeting in the first half of 2019.