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By email: urbanpolicyinput@infrastructure.gov.au

Submission on the National Urban Policy – consultation draft

Thank you for providing an opportunity for Austroads to comment on the consultation draft of the National Urban Policy.

Transport is essential to the fabric of our communities and our way of life. It enables people's connection to places and is critical to economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Making mobility safer and more reliable for all users – and our transport infrastructure sustainable and future proof – is a cornerstone of Austroads' role.

Consistent with the theme of building stronger alignment and partnerships within the draft National Urban Policy, our submission highlights:

- Who we are and what we do
- How our work complements the objectives of the draft policy.

Who we are and what we do

Austroads is the association of the Australian and New Zealand transport agencies, representing all levels of government.

We solve problems for transport agencies by providing high-quality, practical and impartial advice, information and tools. We also deliver national services that bring national efficiencies across jurisdictional borders.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is our member from the Australian Government. The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is also a member of Austroads, representing local governments.

How our work complements the objectives of the National Urban Policy

How Austroads can assist in managing collaborative relationships to deliver outcomes

Our experience in delivering outcomes, in the form of advice, guidance and operational delivery, can help deliver the goals of the draft policy across all forms of land transport.

This aligns with **Goal 5: Governance and Partnerships** in the draft policy, which emphasises the importance of collaboration and integrated approaches.

An example is Austroads' *Vision Zero* project. Austroads has been at the forefront of developing the guidance and evidence to support the implementation of life-saving initiatives and road designs. The Austroads project *Charting a Path to Eliminating Road Death and Serious Injury* is focused on developing a path to zero deaths and serious injuries through a holistic approach to the safety of all people using the road.

Enhancing Liveability, Equity, Productivity, Sustainability and Resilience

Liveability and Equity

Austrroads' work on active transport and network design contributes to urban liveability and inclusivity by supporting a human-centric approach to transport planning.

Our initiatives create safer, more accessible, and interconnected urban spaces that encourage walking, cycling, and other forms of active transport, directly supporting **Goal 1: Liveable Communities**.

The Austrroads project on *Integrating Safe System with Movement and Place for Vulnerable Road Users* is a key example. The integration of a Safe System, incorporating pedestrians and cyclists into the Movement and Place Framework, aims to eliminate deaths and serious injuries to pedestrians and cyclists on our roads.

The output of this work – in the form of a research report published in 2020 – provides examples and guidance on the optimal 'Safe System' infrastructure to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists for a range of street environments defined by the movement and place concept.

Productivity

Austrroads leads national harmonisation efforts which significantly enhance productivity by providing certainty and consistency to the construction industry. Our work on harmonisation also improves the efficiency of passenger and freight transport.

Our standards and guidelines enable scalable and consistent approaches to transport infrastructure development and operations, directly supporting **Goal 2: Economic Growth and Innovation** in the draft policy.

The development and maintenance of *Austrroads Technical Specifications* fosters innovation and efficiency across the transport sector.

Austrroads has established a Technical Advisory Group, comprising senior representatives from each transport agency, to oversee the development and maintenance of technical specifications which are adopted across Australia and New Zealand. Common technical standards reduce costs to government and industry, and promote improved economic outcomes.

Sustainability

Austrroads is leading a suite of research projects focusing on sustainability, climate change resilience, emissions reduction and active transport.

This supports **Goal 4: Environmental Sustainability**, demonstrating our proactive approach to addressing climate change and promoting sustainable urban development.

A project to develop guidelines for low and zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure is a good example of this type of work. In September 2022, Austrroads published *Guidelines for Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Installation*.

The guidelines, the first of their kind in Australasia, are being used to support the use of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles.

Resilience

Austrroads is leading work to improve transport resilience to severe weather events and climate change. Austrroads is also increasing the resilience of digital infrastructure which underpins our digital services.

Supporting **Goal 5: Resilient Communities** are at the centre of many of our research programs and services, demonstrating our proactive approach to addressing climate change and promoting sustainable urban development.

The *2023 Seminar: Improving Resilience in Transport Infrastructure, Shared Experiences and Essential Tips*, showcased the work being done across transport agencies, which draws upon the guidance and advice provided by Austrroads.

Working with you to deliver outcomes

Austrroads is uniquely positioned to work with you to deliver improved outcomes which align with the goals of the draft National Urban Policy.

To this end, Austrroads would be pleased to support the development of actionable steps, which leverage our capabilities and relationships within and across government, that can deliver practical results for the policy.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss things further. I can be contacted directly at gavin.hill@tca.gov.au or on 0439 489 681.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Hill
General Manager
Strategic Engagement and Performance
Austrroads

Austrroads guidelines and reports which inform best practice

Transport Infrastructure

- APT6135 Decarbonisation and improved sustainability of asphalt pavements
- APT6390 Improving characterisation of temperature effects on pavements

Road Safety and Design

- SAG6371 Keeping people safe when walking
- SRD6296 Guide to Road Design update – all user / vehicle types and all road stereotypes
- SAG6507 Best practice guidance in road safety management
- SAG6506 Guidance on speed management
- SRD6501 Road design guidance for large freight vehicles

Transport Network Operations

- NEF6392 Future freight vehicles and buses - Implications for road managers
- NEG6384 Movement and place guidance
- NEG6385 Guidance for cycling and micromobility planning
- NEG6386 Guidance for pedestrian planning
- NEG6387 Guidance for pedestrian treatments at signalised intersections
- NEG6438 Transport network management guidance for flooding and wet weather events
- NEG6441 Travel to schools
- NEF6395 Research into recent urban freight movement patterns
- NEG6444 Guidelines for planning and assessment of bus infrastructure on roads
- NEF6435 Freight travel time value of freight and value of travel time reliability
- NEG6523 Incident response for low and zero emission vehicles
- NEF6534 Urban freight scoping study

Vehicles and Technology

- CAV6450 Accessibility guidelines for low and zero emission vehicle charging infrastructure
- FCA6314 Connected vehicle and road agency data exchange
- CAV6428 Design principles for roads and infrastructure for future mobility solutions

- VTO6514 Stocktake and roadmap for vehicle technology deployments
- VTD6512 Uplift road agency data collection and exchange
- VTD6511 Options for a national system to manage the security of C-ITS

Environment and Sustainability

- EAS6361 Transport agency emissions reduction opportunities
- EAS6377 Prioritising active transport
- EAS6378 Climate change risk assessment guidelines
- ESE6497 Environment and sustainability stocktake
- ESG6515 Development of carbon measurement and reporting tool
- ESC6516 Research climate resilience needs and guidance approaches
- ESC6517 Develop climate resilience and adaptation metrics for transport
- ESC6518 Identify, prioritise and deploy adaptation actions
- ESE6519 Environment and sustainability stocktake continuation.

Published reports

[Classifying, Measuring and Valuing the Benefits of Place on the Transport System](#)

[Safe System in the Planning Process](#)

[Integrating Safe System with Movement and Place for Vulnerable Road Users](#)

[Prioritising Active Transport](#)

[Local Government Readiness for Connected and Automated Vehicles.](#)

[Preparing for Connected and Automated Vehicles: Resources for Local Government.](#)

Upcoming and recent webinars

[How to Design Cities for Women and Girls](#)

[Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines](#)

[2023 National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey.](#)

[Safe Active Streets – An Overview of WA's Pilot Program](#)