

# FORUM MEETS IN MELBOURNE



AUSTRALIAN ROAD FORUM

The ARF Forum held its second meeting in Melbourne on 8 March. The Forum convenes every six months as a college of industry leaders. Its meetings review the “State of the Nation” for road transport in Australia and participation is limited to ARF members and invited guests.

The Melbourne meeting was sponsored by Boral and attended by 76 participants. Presentations included:

- A business activity overview from BIS Shrapnel
- A report on the Federal Opposition’s policies from the Shadow Minister for Transport, Senator Kerry O’Brien
- A panel session with the Chief Executives of state road authorities
- An update on plans for Victoria’s roads by the Victorian Minister for Transport, the Hon Peter Batchelor
- A hypothetical of industry leaders led by Marko Misko, a partner with Clayton Utz Melbourne.

The hypothetical was the highlight of a power packed agenda. Marko and his panel had the room jumping. This was scarcely surprising in view of the



Participants at the Forum meeting in Melbourne.



Pictured (left to right) are Ian Webb, ARF Chief Executive; Hon. Peter Batchelor, Victorian Minister for Transport; Ray Fisher, ARF President.



Senator Kerry O'Brien presents the Federal Opposition's views to the ARF Forum.



Hypothetical Session. Marko Misko, a partner from Clayton Utz, led the hypothetical on industry issues. Participants in the hypothetical were Mr Ken Mathers, CEO, SEITA; Mr Peter Brecht, Managing Director, Abigroup; Dr Max Lay, Former President RACV; Mr David Anderson, Chief Executive, VicRoads; Mr John Allan, General Secretary, Transport Workers Union; and Senator Kerry O'Brien, Federal Shadow Minister for Transport.



Panel Session with Senior Executives from State Road Authorities. Left to Right: Bruce Van Every (GM Road System Management VicRoads), David Stuart Watt (Director, Operations and Services, RTA NSW), Alan Tesch (CEO, Queensland Main Roads) and Dr. James Horne (Chief Executive, Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure, South Australia) taking the stage for the Road Authority Panel.

thespian qualities of most of the members of the panel. They included John Allan (General Secretary TWU), David Anderson (Chief Executive Vicroads), Peter Brecht (Chief Executive Abigroup), Max Lay (former President RACV), Ken Mathers (Chief Executive SEITA) and Senator Kerry O'Brien, (Federal Shadow Minister for Transport).

ARF is very pleased with the way the Forum meetings have evolved. Presenters at the meetings have comprised a "who's who" of industry.

According to ARF Chief Executive, Ian Webb, the Forum meetings clearly show the benefits of ARF membership. "The concentrated attendance has provided participants with the opportunity to interact individually with the

industry's decision makers in a way which is not provided by any other industry gathering of its kind in Australia."

Ian Webb said that both of the Forum meetings held to date had been fully subscribed. The next one is scheduled for Sydney in September and will be sponsored by the RTA.

## ARF LAUNCHES REGULAR LUNCHESES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ARF convened its first meeting in South Australia on 2 May with a lunch in Adelaide limited to ARF members and guests.

The guest speaker was Dr James Horne, Chief Executive of the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. Dr Horne provided members with a progress report on plans for the South Australian road network.

Support for the lunch was very pleasing and confirmed how strongly ARF has grown since it was launched in March last year. The "first up" participants for the inaugural Adelaide lunch (all ARF members) included RAA, Parsons Brinckerhoff, SKM, Abigroup, Maunsell, Pioneer Road Services, Boral, GHD, Connell Wagner, ARRB Group, LGA, and Currie and Brown. A number of these companies took corporate tables.

ARF will now institute regular lunches in South Australia along the lines of the successful lunches already in place in other states.

### Like to find out MORE about ARF?

- Visit our website – [www.roads.org.au](http://www.roads.org.au) or
- Call the Executive Director, Ian Webb, on (03) 9821 5255.

# MEETINGS IN BRISBANE AND SYDNEY



Sam Haddad addresses the Sydney audience on NSW planning reforms.



ARF Members and Guests at the Sydney Luncheon in April.



NRMA Corporate Table at the ARF Lunch in Sydney.

Successful member lunches were held in Sydney on 19 April and in Brisbane on 18 May.

The Sydney lunch was addressed by Sam Haddad, Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning. Sam provided his perspectives on the recent planning reforms in NSW – a topical subject (we counted no less than four Mayors on the top table!).

120 participants attended. Corporate tables were taken up by Macquarie,

Connell Wagner, the RTA, Boral, the NRMA, SKM and Baulderstone Hornibrook. It was great to see such strong support from the membership.

On 18 May, the Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon Paul Lucas addressed an ARF members' lunch in Brisbane. Paul Lucas has been a regular and popular speaker at ARF functions. He currently holds the national crowd record for an ARF function (250 at dinner in March last year).

Once again Minister Lucas drew a strong and enthusiastic audience. He provided an update on Queensland's plans for its road system – a stimulating and ambitious vision. It was easy to see why the team at Queensland Main Roads and Queensland Transport are excited by what lies ahead.



Hon Paul Lucas, Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads was the ARF Guest Speaker at its lunch in Brisbane.



Sam Haddad, Director General, NSW Department of Planning.

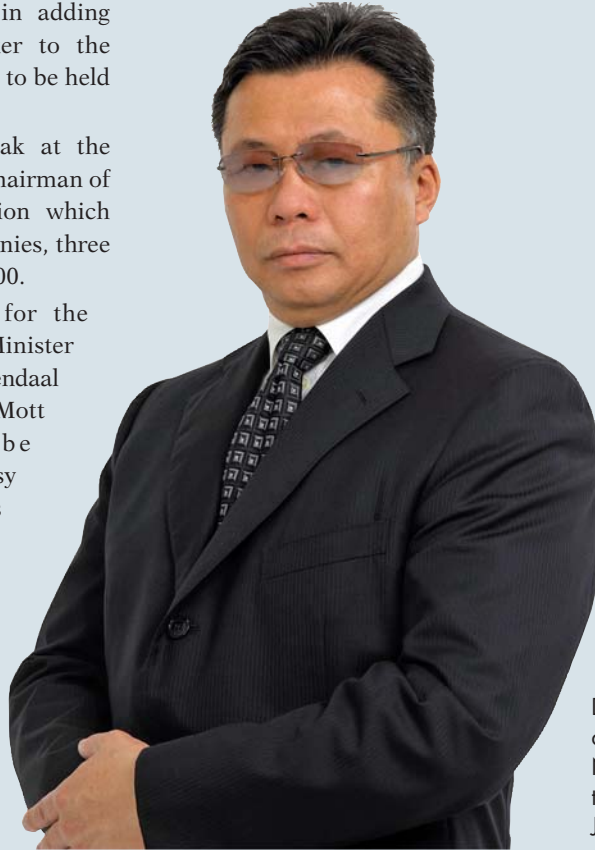
# JAPANESE INDUSTRY LEADER TO ADDRESS ARF SUMMIT

ARF has been fortunate in adding another high profile speaker to the program for the ARF Summit to be held in Sydney on 30 and 31 May.

Dr Koichi Saito will speak at the Summit dinner. Dr Saito is Chairman of the Saito Nippon Corporation which controls more than 50 companies, three of which are in Japan's top 100.

Other keynote speakers for the Summit include the NSW Minister for Roads, the Hon Eric Roozendaal and Forbes Johnston from Mott MacDonald who will be attending from the UK courtesy of Connell Wagner. Forbes is an international authority on the use of private finance for public infrastructure maintenance

The program for the Summit will focus on the key issues in the financing, development, provision and operation



of road infrastructure, and will include presentations from government organisations, infrastructure owners, consultants and road user organisations.

The Summit is the highlight of the ARF calendar. Reservations may be made with:

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## NEW ARF MEMBER – SEITA

ARF is pleased to welcome the Southern and Eastern Integrated Transport Authority (SEITA) as a member. SEITA was established by an Act of Parliament in 2003 specifically to facilitate delivery of the EastLink Project.

SEITA's participation in ARF enhances the diversity of expertise within the membership. Other ARF

members with specific expertise in motorways ownership and management include MIG, Queensland Motorways, Transurban, Transfield Services, and the state road agencies of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.