

# NEW CHAPTER LOOKING FOR FUNDING SOLUTIONS

*The Roads Australia Funding and Financing Chapter executive met in July to discuss how this important policy initiative will move forward.*



Pictured at the July Funding and Financing Chapter meeting (L to R), Doug Jones (Clayton Utz), David Lumb (NRMA), Scott Alison (Abigroup) and Peter Hicks (Leighton Contractors).

The meeting, hosted in Sydney by RA member Clayton Utz, focussed on the finalisation of an issues paper and a program of meeting with governments later this year to discuss the ideas put forward in the paper.

RA Policy Director, Christine Keyes, says the new Chapter is seeking to promote the economic value of roads to the community.

“This is the first step in establishing a more sustainable system of funding and financing for both the management and renewal of Australia’s most important economic asset - our roads,” she says.

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

The broad aims of the Funding and Financing Chapter are:

- to create a forum to debate issues around funding and financing of roads;
- to share knowledge and new ideas about funding and financing of roads with the broader RA membership and beyond; and
- to establish Roads Australia as the organisation governments approach to discuss and test policy ideas on funding and financing of roads.

Meantime, RA’s Capacity Chapter held a well attended meeting in Melbourne in June. Among the initiatives the Chapter is pursuing is a published list of significant projects in the planning, and quantifying the benefits of sequencing projects in a reliable, forward program of works.

*For more information on RA’s Policy Chapters, their objectives and outcomes,*

*contact Christine at [christine@roads.org.au](mailto:christine@roads.org.au)*

## COMING UP - SUMMIT NEWS

The Roads Australia Sixth National Roads Summit and John Shaw Award dinner was taking place as this edition of Roads went to bed.

The next edition of RA News will include coverage of this important and significant national event, which focussed this year on key issues in the financing, development, provision and operation of road infrastructure, and included presentations from government organisations, infrastructure owners, consultants and road user organisations.

The John Shaw Medal, the Australian road industry’s most presti-

# GET BEHIND TRAVELSMART, SAYS RA

*Roads Australia is encouraging its members to get behind TravelSmart, the government-led campaign to promote sustainable transport alternatives and reduce our reliance on private cars.*

A number of TravelSmart initiatives and programs were highlighted at a recent meeting of RA's Congestion Chapter.

It was stressed at the meeting that Roads Australia members could set an example for the community by getting their organisations more involved in the program.

"How we manage network demand can have a significant impact on congestion, and programs like Travel Smart are showing us a way forward," says RA President, Ray Fisher.

"As an industry with a vested interest in roads, we are well placed to encourage and promote programs like this one."

TravelSmart, which has been going across Australia for a number of years, is about reducing reliance on cars and making smart choices about other forms of transport.

The program is backed by Federal, state and territory governments, with all actively involved in projects and programs that lead the way in influencing change.

The recent meeting of the Congestion Chapter highlighted TravelSmart

programs in Victoria, Queensland and South Australia as examples of the kind of actions being undertaken across the country.

A South Australian project, the TravelSmart Households in the West Project, was cited as a particular example of success.

The TravelSmart Households in the West Project, an initiative of the SA Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, commenced in 2005 with the aim of reducing private car usage by encouraging behavioural change, with the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project targeted suburbs in Adelaide's west, home to 13 per cent of the city's population. A widespread communications strategy set out to encourage people to reduce their dependency on their cars in favour of more environmentally sustainable travel and transport choices.

The final report, released in January this year, revealed an average reduction in car kilometres travelled by participants of 18 per cent, while public transport usage in

the targeted areas rose by six per cent per annum.

Furthermore, the project was shown to have had a positive effect in reducing both the average number of trips per day and the average distance travelled daily by participants over the evaluation period.

More recently, a TravelSmart pilot program run by Queensland Transport and Main Roads is seeking to change work habits in Brisbane.

The Flexible Workplace Program - Brisbane Central Pilot was run in June, promoting three separate initiatives - flexible start and finish hours (outside the peak travel hours), telecommuting, and a compressed work week.

A number of government departments and private organisations based in the Brisbane CBD and surrounding suburbs took part in the pilot. At the completion of the pilot, participants were surveyed to measure any changes to their work patterns and identify any barriers or benefits encountered.

In May, the Department also conducted a flexible workplace forum, with attendees from government agencies and private businesses.

Meantime, in Victoria a range of innovative TravelSmart initiatives are being promoted, like a Bike-share pilot at Monash University and the participation of state schools in National Ride2School Day earlier this year.

Roads Australia's Policy Director, Christine Keyes, said one of the best ways to influence public policy in this area was to lead by example.

"We're encouraging our members and players across the wider road industry to consider implementing TravelSmart programs, or to take part in government-initiated programs, so as to play an active, lead role in addressing the congestion problem," she says.

The TravelSmart website has resources for employers and workplaces to encourage smarter travel options. Go to [www.travelsmart.gov.au/](http://www.travelsmart.gov.au/)



A view of proceedings at last year's National Roads Summit.

rious acknowledgement of excellence by an individual, was also presented as part of the two-day Summit.

This year's Summit was sponsored by RA members ARRB, Hyder and SKM, while the John Shaw Dinner - which featured the Hon. Nick Greiner

AC as keynote speaker - was sponsored by Bilfinger Berger Australia.

For the latest news on upcoming RA events, check the calendar on our home page - [www.roads.org.au](http://www.roads.org.au) Events can also be booked on line.