

# AUSTRALIAN ROAD FORUM ALL SET FOR 22 MARCH

The Commonwealth Roads Minister, Jim Lloyd, will officially launch the Australian Road Forum at a National Road Summit in Brisbane on 22 March.

## Objectives

A task force of state and federal government agencies, companies and industry associations has drawn up the objectives and structure for the new body.

According to Ray Fisher, the President of ARF, the initiative is based on the realisation that, although Australia's road transport system is of critical importance, no forum exists to bring all stakeholders together.

"At present we all work in different silos from local government to road builders. This diminishes our communication and our capacity to advance the interest of a vital national asset," Ray Fisher said.

"Our road transport system needs a forum in which all sectors, including commercial, public sector and community, can come together in one identifiable body. This will enable participants to network with a much more diverse range of corporate, government and association representatives than is possible through existing mechanisms".

## Activities

Ray Fisher emphasizes that the Forum will not duplicate or replace the work done by individual associations, companies, or unions on behalf of their members.

"In terms of advocacy, it will represent the high level issues which all stakeholders share, rather than issues relevant to individual sectors."

The activities program will include:

- Regular lunches, workshops and networking opportunities in all states
- Meetings of the National Council - the peak body of stakeholders
- "single table" lunches with key decision makers and CEO's.

Ray Fisher said that the ARF has already held single table lunches with the Federal Minister for Roads and Mr Max Moore-Wilton. The new head of DOTARS, Mike Taylor, has agreed to be a guest for the next lunch.

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| <b>ROAD OPERATORS</b><br><b>Transurban</b><br><b>MIG</b>   | <b>GOVERNMENT AGENCIES</b><br><b>Queensland Main Roads</b><br><b>RTA NSW</b><br><b>Transport SA</b><br>Dept of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) | <b>EQUIPMENT</b><br><b>Caterpillar</b><br><b>BR Durham</b>  |
| <b>PAVING</b><br><b>Emoleum</b><br><b>Boral</b><br><b>Shell</b><br><b>Readymix</b><br><b>Pioneer Road Services</b><br><b>CCAA</b>                    | <b>RESEARCH</b><br><b>ARRB Research</b>   | <b>MOTORISTS</b><br><b>NRMA</b>   |
| <b>FREIGHT</b><br><b>Vic Transport Assoc.</b><br>Australian Trucking Assoc.<br>Linfox  | <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b><br><b>Australian Local Government Association</b>   | <b>CONSTRUCTION</b><br><b>Abigroup Contractors</b><br><b>CCF Victoria</b><br><b>Baulderstone Hornibrook</b><br><b>Reed Constructions</b><br>Australian Constructors Association |
| <b>ENGINEERS</b><br><b>Sinclair Knight Merz</b><br><b>Maunsell</b><br><b>Parsons Brinckerhoff</b><br>GHD<br>Kellogg Brown and Root<br>Connell Wagner | <b>UNIONS</b><br><b>Transport Workers Union of Australia</b>  | <b>SERVICES</b><br><b>Transfield Services</b><br><b>Skilled</b><br>Blake Dawson Waldron   |

**Bold = National Council Member** Not Bold = Task Force Member

## Membership Growth and Coverage

According Ray Fisher, the new Forum is well positioned as the national peak body for road transport in Australia.

"Since we announced the initiative a year ago, the idea has snow-balled," Ray Fisher said. "We started with a nucleus of eleven National Councillors and we now have twenty-eight. They include a who's who of our industry."

According to Ray Fisher, there has also been a big expansion in the coverage of ARF membership.

"If we are to be a peak body for the industry, we need to cover all the bases. We don't need strings of members in each area, but we must have key players from each sector."

A year ago the ARF Council only covered five industry sectors, with a heavy emphasis on quarrying and paving. The Council now presents broad representation from twelve separate industry sectors.

"We also see this pattern in the companies attending ARF functions",

Ray Fisher said. "During the last six months of 2004, 110 separate companies were represented at ARF policy lunches in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane."

## The National Council - "A College of Industry Leaders"

The governing body of the Australian Road Forum will be a National Council. It is expected to comprise up to two representatives from each member organisation, producing a tight-knit gathering of industry leaders.

The aim is to bring the industry together in one room to debate policy and receive updates from political and corporate leaders.

### 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.

Ray Fisher said that after the new Forum is officially established in March, the next formal meeting of the Council will be in Canberra. After that, meetings will alternate around Australia's capital cities, with two or three major meetings each year.

"Meetings will follow an established format," Ray Fisher said. "They will be full-day meetings, always with a key policy maker over lunch. Typically other speakers will be industry leaders who will update the Councillors on "the state of the Nation" as far as road transport is concerned - people should expect to come away from a Council meeting knowing the latest in terms of current issues."

The other major priority will be to debate the industry's strategies and objectives, taking advantage of the presence of "a college of industry leaders". Ray Fisher expects that meetings will typically end with an "adjournment debate" in which Councillors can raise any issues which they feel should come to national attention across the industry as a whole.

It is also expected that National Council meetings will address some of the local issues which arise in the States in which the meetings are held. Ray Fisher believes that the meetings will swiftly become a favourite vehicle for major road policy announcements by political leaders at both State and Federal levels.

The peak body meetings of the National Council will be backed up by regular industry lunches in all states which will be open to the industry at large. ARF plans that these will build up to at least four each year in all states.

"This will provide a mechanism for bringing the industry together at both senior management and operational levels", Ray Fisher explained.

### Arrangements to launch the Forum

The launch will coincide with an industry summit to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre on 22 and 23 March. The Summit will be addressed by a who's who in Australian road transport. Speakers over the two days include:

- Jim Lloyd MP, Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads
- Stephen Golding, Director-General, Department of Main Roads QLD



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- Michael Taylor, Secretary, Department of Transport and Regional Services
- David Stuart-Watt, Director Client Services, RTA NSW,
- Ross Fraser, Chairman, Australian Trucking Association,
- Paul Bell, Acting President, Australian Local Government Association
- Peter Steele, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NRMA
- Ed Sandrejko, Division Director, Investment Banking, Macquarie Infrastructure Group
- Anthony Ockwell, Assistant Secretary, Portfolio Policy, Department of Transport and Regional Services
- John Hopman, Managing Director, Hills Motorway
- Peter Brecht, Managing Director, Abigroup Contractors
- Tim Boyle, Infrastructure General Manager, Sinclair Knight Merz
- James Yiu Kwan Luk, Chief Scientist, ARRB Transport Research
- Menno Henneveld, Commissioner, Main Roads Western Australia



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- Phil Potterton, Executive Director, Bureau of Transport & Regional Economics
- Alan Terry, Chief Executive Officer, RACQ
- Gerard Waldron, Chief Executive Officer, ARRB Transport Research
- John Allan, Federal Secretary, TWU
- Jim Longley, Head of Government Finance, Commonwealth Bank

The Summit dinner will be sponsored by Queensland Main Roads and will be addressed by the Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon Paul Lucas MP. The 2004 John Shaw award for achievement in Road Transport will be presented at the dinner.

The dinner will also recognise the foundation members who join the National Council of the Australian Road Forum by Day One. If you would like to be one of them, give the Executive Director, Ian Webb, a call on (03) 9821 5255. Details of how to register to attend the Summit and the dinner also appear overleaf.

## JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO IRF BANGKOK

The ARF is convening the Australian delegation to attend the IRF World Meeting to be held in Bangkok from 14 to 18 June.

The IRF Secretariat expects the meeting to attract 2000 delegates from road-related companies in over seventy countries.

It will be an important meeting for Australian business. Asia is a critical market for Australian companies in the road sector. It is also expected that the road sector response to the recent tsunami will be an important subject of discussion both in session and in the corridors.

This is one of the first international conferences to be held in Bangkok since the tsunami and will be important for humanitarian and business reasons.

As the IRF's official representative in Australia, only delegates on the ARF delegation will be accredited as the official Australian delegation (and also be entitled to the IRF delegate registration discounts).

Membership of the official delegation is also the opportunity to "get with the strength" in terms representation. It is expected that the delegation will be led by a senior Australian Minister who will address the plenary session of the



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Meeting on the first day. The delegation will also comprise representatives of the major Australian companies who do business in roads in Asia. Special functions and activities will be arranged by ARF for the delegation.

The ARF has bloc booked accommodation for the Australian delegation. All registrations for the Australian delegation (and the IRF delegates' discount) must be made through ARF.

If you are interested in joining the official delegation to this important conference, contact the ARF Executive Director, Ian Webb - (03) 9821 5255.

## NEW MEMBERS

Since the last issue of Road News, we have welcomed the following new members to the National Council:

- CCF Victoria
- Victorian Transport Association
- Transport Workers Union of Australia
- Reed Constructions Australia



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