

SYDNEY LUNCH WITH DR SHARMAN STONE MP



AUSTRALIAN ROAD FORUM



Minister for Workforce Participation, Dr Sharman Stone hit the mark with ARF members and their guests at a recent ARF lunch in Sydney.

Dr Stone engaged the audience with her take on what the Federal Government is doing to combat a shrinking workforce.

She said Australia's ageing population and decreased fertility rates mean the workforce is not being replenished, even with skilled migration levels of 100,000 people a year.

"As business people, you need people to fill the ranks of ageing workers who are leaving," Dr Stone said.

She called on the transport industry to embrace new ways of working to

entice recruits from the pool of 2.5 million unemployed people of working age who will now be expected to work under the Federal Government's Welfare to Work Program.

She cited ARF member Boral as an example of a company that had taken on mature age, long term unemployed people and trained them up to be productive and top quality employees.

She also encouraged the industry to reject what she called "ridiculous gender stereotyping," saying female dominated industries like childcare should employ more men, while traditionally male areas should hire women.

"The majority of single parents who will now be expected to work when their children turn six, are women."

According to Dr Stone, these women could provide the answer to some of the workforce shortages in the transport industry.

She also said the Government was investing \$3.5 billion dollars to help businesses engage with these potential workers as they attempt to re-enter the workforce.

ARF President Ray Fisher praised the Minister's informal and engaging style.

"Dr Stone had the whole audience nodding with her – she is an excellent speaker," he said.



Alex Paton, Sinclair Knight Merz and Neil Doyle, Queensland Department of Main Roads.



Dr Sharman Stone, MP and ARF President Ray Fisher.

ARF SEPTEMBER FORUM

Federal Minister for Roads, Jim Lloyd will be the luncheon speaker at the next ARF Forum on Thursday 21 September, while the NSW Minister for Roads, Eric Roozendaal has been invited to launch the event.

The Forum convenes every six months for a one-day state of the nation review of road transport. The aim is to bring the leading companies, government agencies and key industry associations together in one room as a college of industry leaders.

The Forum will include workshops on the pricing of road use and congestion management with a focus on heavy vehicles. A panel of key user representatives will evaluate the proposals and technology submitted by Australia's leading experts.

As usual a highlight of the meeting will be reports from Australia's state and federal road authorities on projects and what's in the pipeline.

The meeting will be held at the WatersEdge (Pier One) Sydney and will be sponsored by the RTA. Registrations are now open for the event which is open only to ARF members and invited guests. The last two Forum meetings have been oversubscribed – members are advised to book early.

COMPANIES REPRESENTED AT ARF FORUM MEETINGS

September 2005 and March 2006

Abigroup Construction	John Holland Group
Allens Arthur Robinson	Kellogg Brown and Root
ARF	Komatsu
ARRB Group	Leighton Contractors
Australasian College of Road Safety	Macquarie Infrastructure Group
Australian Asphalt Pavement Association	Maunsell
Australian Automobile Association	Meyrick and Associates
Australian Construction Products	MSP Group
Australian Constructors Association	National Transport Commission
Australian Financial Review	NSW Minister for Roads
Austroroads	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Boulderstone Hornibrook	Phillips Fox
BIS Shrapnel	Pioneer Road Services
Boral	Price Waterhouse Coopers
BR Durham & Sons	Queensland Main Roads
Brisbane City Council	Queensland Transport
Cement, Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA)	Reed Constructions Australia
Civil Contractors Federation	Resources & Traffic Authority NSW
Clayton Utz	RIISC
Connect East	RTA NSW
Connell Wagner	SEITA
Department of Employment & Workplace Relations	Shell Co of Australia Ltd
Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development	Sinclair Knight Merz
Department of Main Roads, Queensland	Skilled
Department of Transport, Energy & Infrastructure	SMEC Australia
Deutsche Telekom	Statewide Roads
DOTARS	Tenix Solutions Pty Ltd
Egis Projects	The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia
Emoleum	The Earthmover & Civil Contractor
Engineers Australia	Thiess
Commonwealth Shadow Minister for Transport	Transfield Services Australia Pty Ltd
FRH Group Pty Ltd	Transport SA
GHD Pty Ltd	Transport Workers Union of Australia
Hyder Consulting	Transurban Infrastructure Development
Institute of Logistics and Transport	University of Sydney
Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia	VicRoads
Interlink Roads	Victorian Minister for Transport
	Westlink Motorway Limited
	Westpac
	WesTrac
	Works Infrastructure

Like to find out MORE about ARF?

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

NEW CEO FOR NSW ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The ARF welcomes the selection of Les Wielinga as the new Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

ARF Chief Executive Ian Webb said the appointment was good for the stability of the road transport industry.

“Mr Wielinga is a very experienced leader, with a commitment to ensuring our roads are well built and maintained,” said Mr Webb.

NSW Minister for Roads, Eric Roozendaal said it was important for a roads engineer to lead the RTA at this critical time in the delivery of major infrastructure projects.

“Les has roads in his blood. His father spent 15 years as a maintenance worker in a road gang in Bourke and Les has spent his entire career building roads in this State.

“Mr Wielinga started with the former NSW Department of Main Roads at 18 and has worked continuously since then on building roads across NSW, from Broken Hill to Goulburn and Parramatta,” Mr Roozendaal said.

Mr Wielinga was most recently the RTA’s Director of Motorways and Chairperson of the Lane Cove Tunnel Integration Group. Major projects Mr Wielinga has worked on include the Westlink M7, the Cross City Tunnel and major upgrades of the Pacific Highway including Bulahdelah to Coolongolook, Yelgun to Chinderah, the Tweed Heads Bypass and the Taree Bypass.

These projects include the \$420 million Windsor Road upgrade, the \$1.3 billion Pacific Highway upgrade over the next three years, the \$800 million Hume Highway upgrade and the delivery of the \$1.1 billion Lane Cove Tunnel and expanded Gore Hill Freeway project.

The new CEO has been charged with particular responsibility to:

- Refocus the RTA on project construction and delivery
- Efficiently reopen roads to improve traffic flow around the Sydney CBD
- Increase the usage of electronic tags on the Sydney Orbital and toll roads
- Develop plans for a cashless Sydney Harbour Tunnel
- Implement the M5 East Air Quality Improvement Plan
- Work with the Commonwealth Government to efficiently deliver the Hume and Pacific Highway upgrades
- Implement the Iemma Government’s school road safety package
- Develop plans to address the current road toll
- Improve transparency and the public access to information in the RTA.

Mr Wielinga said he looked forward to the challenge of running the RTA.

“I will be working with the RTA’s staff in delivering good infrastructure and services for the people of NSW,” Mr Wielinga said.

Mr Roozendaal also thanked acting RTA CEO Mike Hannon for his recent leadership of the RTA.



Les Wielinga, the new Chief Executive Officer of the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sydney

21 September – FORUM with Federal Minister Jim Lloyd MP, NSW Roads Minister Eric Roozendaal

28 November - AGM & LUNCH

Melbourne

8 August - Lunch with Sharon Burrow, President ACTU

27 September - Lunch with Ted Baillieu, Leader of the Victorian Opposition (Book early for this)

5 December – Lunch with Commissioner Christine Nixon, Victoria Police

Adelaide

1 September -Lunch with Patrick Conlon, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy, South Australia

Brisbane

18 October (date to be confirmed) - Lunch with Anna Bligh, Deputy Premier



22nd ARRB Group Conference

The 22nd ARRB Conference will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 29 October to 2 November 2006. A broad range of road and transport issues will be addressed through invited speaker sessions, technical sessions and workshops.

The conference will feature an impressive line-up of international and Australian invited speakers from across the road and transport industry. These speakers will be participating in plenary sessions addressing topics such as the benefits of transport research, current issues in asset management, road safety, traffic, pavements and the future of land transport. Further details on invited speakers, technical sessions and other conference news is available on the conference website www.arrb.com.au/22conf

- **Dr Max Lay (Keynote speaker)** – Australian and world renowned authority on transport
- **Mr Peter Balfe** - Sinclair Knight Merz (Eastlink Project Independent Reviewer)
- **Mr Tony Bliss** - World Bank, Transport and Urban Development Department
- **Professor Hee Kiat Cheong** – SIM University (UniSIM) Singapore, President
- **Dr Tom Christison** – Consultant (Pavements), Edmonton, Canada
- **Mr John Dudgeon** - Director, Network Planning and Policy Branch, Queensland Department of Main Roads and Austroads Freight Program Manager
- **Mr Bill Frith** - Manager Research and Statistics, Ministry of Transport, NZ and Austroads Road Safety Program Manager
- **Dr Geoff Garrett** - CSIRO Chief Executive and Member of the Board
- **Professor Ian Johnston** – Director, Monash University Accident Research Centre
- **Mr Dave Jones** - Principal Transport Planner and Regional Manager, ARRB Consulting (Victoria, TAS and New Zealand)
- **Mr Louw Kannemeyer** - South African National Roads Agency Ltd, Road Network Manager
- **Mr Gary Liddle** - Deputy CEO, VicRoads and Austroads Technology Program Manager
- **Dr Alan Nicholson**- University of Canterbury, New Zealand, Head of Civil Engineering Department
- **Mr Gary Norwell** - Executive Director, Technology and Environment, Main Roads Western Australia and Austroads Assets Program Manager
- **Dr John Oliver** - Chief Research Scientist, ARRB Group
- **Mr Ken Porter** - Motorways Procurement Manager, Roads & Traffic Authority
- **Dr Susan Sharland** - Transport Research Laboratory (TRL Ltd), Chief Executive
- **Professor Peter Vulcan** - Founding Director, Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC)
- **Mr Dennis Walsh** - Director (Network Operations & Modelling), Queensland Department of Main Roads and Austroads Network Program Manager.

In addition to a stimulating technical program, a fun-filled social program has also been planned. The conference dinner will be held at the National Museum of Australia. With its award winning architecture, thought provoking displays and beautiful views over Lake Burley Griffin, it promises to be a setting for a memorable event. Questacon (the National Science and Technology Centre) will host the conference cocktail party, where guests can entertain themselves in galleries filled with interactive exhibits and fascinating displays. Social tour participants can experience many different facets of Canberra, from politics to art and deep space technology to local wildlife.

Conference registration is now open at www.arrb.com.au/22conf. Remember to register early and take advantage of the early booking discount which provides at least 20% discount on the standard full time registration fee.