

# NEW NATIONAL BODY TO BE KNOWN AS AUSTRALIAN ROAD FORUM

The new national umbrella organisation for Australian road transport will be known as the Australian Road Forum. A task force of companies, government agencies and industry associations settled on the new name at meeting in Sydney on 24 August.

"The name focuses on the key role of the new body - to provide a national forum which will bring the industry together", Ray Fisher, President of the ARF announced after the meeting. "It keeps the old initials of the ARF, but distinguishes the Forum as a new entity."

The meeting also looked at what the new body will do. Issues included its role in relation to advocacy and its relationships with existing industry associations and governments.

### "The Industry's Natural Champion"

The task force agreed that a peak body for road transport should be the network's natural champion. Distilling the industry's perceptions, promoting community awareness, policy consultation, and networking would also be important.

"The new body will no doubt speak with considerable authority, but it will exercise it only in support of the end values to which all members aspire", Ray Fisher said.

"The message was that the national body should earn respect by virtue of its support for what is good for Australia", Ray Fisher said.'

### "We won't be eating off your plate"- Ian Webb

At the meeting the ARF Executive Director, Ian Webb, assured representatives of other industry associations that the ARF would not duplicate the work of its constituent members.

"Putting it simply, we won't be eating off your plate", he told his industry association colleagues.

Task force members agreed with him that political advocacy, including representational activity on behalf of specific industry groups, should largely be left to industry associations which might themselves be members of the national forum.

### Forum to take "Constructive" Approach

Ray Fisher and Ian Webb were also pleased that the meeting decided to take a "constructive" approach in terms of contributing to public policy development.

"We thought Federal and State Roads and Transport Ministers should be supported in achieving greater priority for their portfolios, particularly in securing

long term planning and funding", Ray Fisher told Road News.

Ray Fisher said the new body will adopt three main delivery vehicles - meetings of the National Council (the peak forum of the new organisation), regular events for general members (usually lunches) and members' only events (usually small meetings under Chatham House rules).

### National Council - all in the same room

"The National Council will bring the main stakeholders in Australian road transport together in a single room, providing a forum for top level communication and policy discussion".

Ray Fisher expects the National Council will eventually comprise up to 100 members, but will probably begin with a base of around 40. He said the Council will normally meet twice a year, alternating through state and federal capitals.

"The main regular activity will be providing opportunities for industry participants to get together", Ray Fisher said. "Typically, meetings will be held over lunch with guest speakers. We will convene at least four meetings annually in each state, so that industry members can maintain personal contact with their networks".

The regular program will be supplemented by a series of "members only" events. Apparently these will be private affairs designed to provide the opportunity for personal and confidential exchange with senior policy makers.

### Future Meetings of Task Force

Future meetings of the Task Force will address structure, membership, finance and constitutional issues. The recommendations will be submitted to an industry summit in Brisbane from 22-23 March next year.

## WHO IS ON THE TASK FORCE?

The Task Force comprises the members of the National Council of the ARF ex officio. It also includes other industry players who have agreed to contribute to the discussion about the new Forum.

Abigroup	DOTARS
ARRB Research	Emoleum
Australian Constructors Association	GHD
Australian Local Government Association	Kellogg, Brown and Root
Australian Trucking Association	Linfox
Austrroads	Macquarie Infrastructure Group
Baulderstone Hornibrooke	NRMA
Blake Dawson Waldron	Pioneer Road Services
Boral Resources	Queensland Main Roads,
BR Durham	Queensland Transport
Caterpillar Asia Pacific	Readymix
Cement and Concrete Association of Australia	RTA NSW
Civil Contractors Federation	Shell
Connell Wagner	Sinclair Knight Merz
	Skilled Engineering
	Transfield Services

## 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.

# WHERE ARE OUR CITY ROADS HEADED?



Melbourne ARF members and guests enjoyed lunch and a workshop on the challenges confronting Melbourne's roads.

## Melbourne Workshop and Lunch

Melbourne ARF members and guests enjoyed a well-attended lunch and workshop on 21 September on the challenges confronting Melbourne's roads. The lunch was the second in a series being organized in each state on this theme.

Peter Balfe, Deputy Chief Executive of VicRoads set the scene from VicRoads' perspective. Gerard Waldron, Managing Director of ARRB Research (which sponsored the lunch) followed up with a vision of the technology we could expect to see and Philip Lovel of the VTA talked about the needs of road users in Melbourne.

Between them, the speakers came up with some interesting facts and predictions. According to VicRoads' Peter Balfe:

- In the next 20 years:
  - Melbourne's population will increase by 24%
  - Intra metro freight (tonne-km) will grow by 55%
  - Freight in/out of Melbourne will grow around 80%
  - Truck travel (kms) within Melbourne will double

- 65% of future metro growth will be in 6 fringe municipalities
- 90% of trips in Melbourne are within municipality or to an adjoining one
- VicRoads costs the outer metro road backlog at \$1.4 billion
- VicRoads gives high priority to increasing public transport mode share

and using road space more efficiently Gerard Waldron also put some interesting facts on the table:

- Congestion tolling really works
  - The S\$3 charge introduced in 1975 cut city traffic by 73%
  - In London the Access Fee of £5 introduced in 2003 has cut traffic by 20%



Pictured are (left to right) Jill Earnshaw (VicRoads), Janet Brash (VicRoads), Barry Moore (NTC), Krys Migas (VicRoads), Tony Wilson (NTC).



Peter Balfe, Deputy Chief Executive of VicRoads speaking at the lunch.

- Technologies that are now emerging include
  - Smarter highways, more transit
  - Logistics systems and other information systems
  - On-board diagnostics and information systems;
  - 'Just-in-time' goods delivery
  - the ARRB Incident Detection Station
  - Emergency Help Telephone Systems;
- ARRB plays a key role in:
  - Raising awareness of the cost of congestion to encourage policy development
  - Designing equitable pricing schemes to improve efficiency of traffic flow;
  - Contributing to the promotion of ITS and the development of new and better systems;
  - Working with road authorities on performance monitoring facilities & analysis of their data

Philip Lovel of the Victorian Transport Association treated the audience to some straight talking about the need for action by state and federal governments:

- The cost of running a large vehicle is over \$2.00 /minute.
- Today about 25% of freight costs are eaten up by congestion - this could be say \$25.00/ hour getting bogged down in traffic. This may rise to 50% within 15 years.
- Melbourne is losing its place as a national transport hub - we need action.
- We want more than just the Mitcham - Frankston Tollway.



Pictured are (left to right) Garry Gardiner (CCF), Ray Fisher (ARF), Bob Seiffert (CCF) and Mark Barraclough (PRS).

- Upgrade Footscray Road and build an elevated roadway through to the old Geelong Road (and get on with a decision on an alternate to the Westgate Bridge)
- Complete the Eastern Ring Road without spoiling Eltham.
- Don't shut down or restrict existing routes. Otherwise there will be some serious protests.
- Tolls aren't necessarily popular but new infrastructure is essential, so lets get on with it!

### Future ARF meetings and Lunches

Another lunch in the series was held in Brisbane on 28 September and will be featured in our next issue.

Future ARF lunches are planned for Sydney on 3 November (with Minister Scully) and in Adelaide on 23 November. Bookings can be made on the website - [www.roads.org.au](http://www.roads.org.au), but you will need to be quick to get a seat. By 1 October, over 100 seats had already been sold for the Sydney lunch!



Pictured are (left to right) David Mangan (AAPA), Andrew Garrett (GHD), Ted Wzientek (Transfield Services) and Keith Wenban (Transfield Services).

NATIONAL ROAD SUMMIT 2005

# BE AN EARLY BIRD AT THE CREATION



The **Australian Road Forum** will be established as the new umbrella body for road transport in Australia at an industry summit in March 2005.

Speakers and participants will be the who's who of the Australian Road Transport sector.

This Summit will provide the definitive state of play across companies, government agencies and industry associations involved in road transport.

Join the household names in Road Transport in Australia:

**Abigroup**

**ARRB Research**

**Emoleum**

**Caterpillar**

**Readymix**

**RTA-NSW**

**Transfield**

**Transport SA**

**NRMA**

**Queensland Transport**

**Boral Resources**

**Macquarie Infrastructure Group**

**Pioneer Road Services**

**Queensland Main Roads**

**Shell Company of Australia**

**Transurban**

**Sinclair Knight Merz**

**BR Durham**

*And they are just some of the organisers!*

**Early bird bookings are now open.**

**\$895 per head.**

**Brisbane Conference and  
Exhibition Centre**

**22-23 March 2005**

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[WWW.ROADS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.ROADS.ORG.AU)**