



DYNAMIC QUEENSLAND ROADS PROGRAM IN SPOTLIGHT AT NOVEMBER FORUM

Queensland's new Minister for Main Roads, Warren Pitt, is among the speakers at the next ARF Forum, to be held in Brisbane on November 16.

Mr Pitt, who was appointed by new State Premier Anna Bligh in September, will provide a fascinating and fresh insight into the Government's vision for Queensland's road infrastructure.

Queensland remains one of the most dynamic markets for road construction and planning in Australia. Under its five-year Roads Implementation Program (RIP), Queensland will spend \$2.3 billion alone next year on road construction – almost four times that of Victoria and some \$400 million more than NSW.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for road industry stakeholders from around Australia to see what is on the horizon in Queensland, and to meet the decision-makers who are driving this ambitious roads program,” says ARF Chief Executive, Ian Webb.

“In addition to Minister Pitt, we are also playing host to the Director-General of the Chinese Roads Ministry, who is visiting Australia at our invitation and will address the morning session.

“The program will include our regular review of industry activity by BIS Shrapnel and reports by state and federal road authorities.

“Of particular interest will be a presentation from Booz Allen Hamilton on the international experience on road pricing.”

Sponsored by Queensland Main Roads, the November Forum will attract



The ARF Forum...Australia's top road industry stakeholders come together.

CEO's and senior executives from over 60 companies and industry associations.

All previous meetings have been fully subscribed and it is advisable to book early.

The ARF Forum is on Friday November 16th 2007, 8.30am till 3:00pm, at the Hillstone St Lucia Golf Club, Carawa Street, St Lucia.

For online bookings, go to www.roads.org.au

WAL KING TO ADDRESS ANNUAL LUNCH

Wal King AO, Chief Executive Officer of Leighton Holdings and one of Australia's most experienced corporate heads, will be guest speaker at this year's ARF annual lunch in Sydney in December.

The lunch is being held in the spectacular surrounds of the Royal Motor Yacht Club, at Point Piper, on Tuesday, December 11.

ARF Chief Executive, Ian Webb, says the annual lunch is one of the highlights of the calendar.

“Last year's lunch at the same venue was a sell out and we anticipate the same response this year,” Mr Webb said.

“It's an ideal opportunity for members to introduce valued customers or key team members to the ARF, and at the same time enjoy a



Wal King

superb lunch and hear from such a highly regarded businessperson.”

The lunch will be preceded by the ARF Annual General Meeting at 11.30am. All ARF members are welcome to attend the AGM.

The lunch is open to both ARF members and non-members, and bookings can be made via the ARF website, www.roads.org.au

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.

ELECTION AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW FOCUS ON ROADS

ARF has renewed its call for a unified approach to road planning, management and funding across all levels of government ahead of this year's Federal election.

ARF President, Ray Fisher, says the upcoming election provides an opportune time for all road industry stakeholders - both public and private sector - to commit to a long-term, national reform agenda for road infrastructure planning and funding.

"While the majority of players in both government and industry agree on the need for a national approach to land transport infrastructure, practical co-operation is the key," he said.

"All stakeholders need to come together in a spirit of co-operation, and to work to establish a clearly defined set of roles and responsibilities that promotes a program approach to planning and funding."

Mr Fisher also called for debate on the bipartisan assessment of national road needs and funding.

"National infrastructure funding needs to move beyond politics and borders," he said.

"We need long-term planning and funding commitments that are not tied to traditional government budgetary cycles or political terms of office.

"AusLink I and II are certainly steps in the right direction, as are some recent initiatives by state governments, but more needs to be done."

Mr Fisher said the current skills crisis underlined the need for firm, long-term planning and funding commitments.

"The staff and plant resources required to build our roads take more years to develop than the current planning horizons to which most governments are prepared to commit," he said.

Other objectives on ARF's policy agenda include:

- a transparent system of national road accounts which aggregates the road

infrastructure expenditure of all levels of government;

- increased attention on renewal and maintenance of the existing road network (ARF would like to see road builders plan funding on the basis of whole-of-life management);
- sustained, significant and bipartisan commitment to research and road safety;
- program to support the industry's future workforce needs; and
- mechanism for greater industry consultation.

For more information on ARF policies, visit the website - www.road.org.au

ARF WELCOMES ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING UNI PLACES

The Australian Road Forum has welcomed the Federal Government's decision to fund an additional 560 university placements for engineering students.

Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop, announced in September that the Government was providing new engineering places as part of the Skills for the Future package and other places as part of the Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future package.

The majority of these places will commence in 2008, the minister said.

ARF president, Ray Fisher, said the Government's announcement was a welcome step in the right direction.

"While the road industry is not alone in feeling the impact of the critical shortage of engineers, we have a

particular concern given the level of construction activity on the horizon," Mr Fisher said.

"This shortage threatens to railroad the ambitious road construction program that is planned by Federal and state governments over the coming decade."

Mr Fisher said having adequate numbers of university places was only part of the solution.

"The ongoing challenge is to attract young people into the profession," he said.

"To that end, ARF would like to see a greater focus on maths and science subjects in the school curriculum to create a platform that attracts young people to engineering."