



Communiqué

Meeting of 7 December 2020 - Adelaide

The Remote Areas Consultative Group (RACG) consists of government and industry representatives from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia.

A full list of member organisations is provided as an attachment to this Communiqué.

The purpose of the RACG is to act as an advisory body to provide a remote areas perspective on proposed and existing transport reforms.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (SA) hosted its fifth and final meeting of the RACG as part of a two year rotation of chairing duties. Chairing and hosting responsibilities for the RACG will be transferred to Main Roads Western Australia for the 2021-2022 rotation.

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- **Strategic Discussion by RACG** – Members discussed strategic issues including the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) review, Electronic Work Diaries and the National PBS Notice Review. Discussions will continue at future meetings in an endeavour to ensure remote area issues are considered as part of these processes.
 - **COVID-19** – Members discussed the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - **Cross Border Communication** - issues regarding border closures and associated restrictions for operators have highlighted the need to implement a mechanism for timely National communication to ensure ongoing industry awareness and safety.
 - **Shortages of Competent Heavy Vehicle Drivers** - have been exacerbated during the pandemic and continue to cause concern regarding the pressure on the existing pool of experienced drivers. Western Australia is working on an improved regime for Heavy Vehicle driver competency training. Industry are involved in a number of projects aimed at addressing the issues and concerns.
 - **Border Closures** are leading to increased potential for motorists to use unfamiliar roads. Drivers must remain vigilant and aware of ongoing developments to ensure safety.

The next RACG meeting is due to be held in the first six months of 2021. It will be scheduled by Main Roads Western Australia, to be held in Perth, with video presence capability for members and invited guests.

For further information, contact the RACG SA member on telephone (08) 7109 7333 or email mike.wilde@sa.gov.au.

ATTACHMENT 1

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REMOTE AREAS CONSULTATIVE GROUP (AS AT 7 DECEMBER 2020)

	Organisation
Chair	Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) (SA)
South Australia	Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) (SA)
	Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of SA
	South Australian Road Transport Association
Western Australia	Main Roads Western Australia
	Western Roads Federation
	Livestock and Rural Transport Association of WA
Queensland	Department of Transport & Main Roads (QLD)
	Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of QLD
	Queensland Trucking Association
Northern Territory	Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT)
	Northern Territory Road Transport Association
National Bodies	National Transport Commission
	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator
	National Road Transport Association
	Australian Road Research Board
Observers	Truck Industry Council
	Dept. of Infrastructure, Regional Development & Cities
	Transport for New South Wales

ATTACHMENT 2

HOSTING SEQUENCE OF THE REMOTE AREAS CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Under the Terms of Reference, the Group is hosted by each member jurisdiction for a period of two years. The agreed hosting sequence appears on the table below:

Host Jurisdiction	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Western Australia	2004 - 2006	2012 - 2014	2021 - 2022
Queensland	2006 - 2008	2014 - 2016	2023 - 2024
Northern Territory	2008 - 2010	2016 - 2018	2025 - 2026
South Australia	2010 - 2012	2019 - 2020	2027 - 2028