The Remote Areas Consultative Group (RACG) comprises government and industry representatives from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, and South Australia. Table 1 lists attending member organisations for this meeting.

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

RACG Chairing and Secretarial responsibilities are managed by member jurisdictions on a two-year rotation of hosting duties. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is the host for the 2023-2024 rotation.

Rotation of hosting duties from Western Australia to Queensland

According to the Terms of Reference, the Group welcomed QLD to their first official hosting duties.

Weather events, flooding and road upgrades

Members discussed recent weather events, degrading road/structures and road works impacting industry. Long wet seasons and more rain to come will likely continue road/structure closures.

Road projects noted:

* + Main Roads Western Australia
    - [Fitzroy River Bridge,](https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/all-projects/regional/fitzroy-river-bridge/) [Eastlink](https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/all-projects/metropolitan/eastlinkwa/)
  + Department for Infrastructure and Transport South Australia
    - Fitzroy Crossing, general flood ways, Kemp Road, Strzlecki track, Port Wakefield Bridge, Outback Hwy

Driver training and safe road transport

Road transport safety, particularly driver training, was recognised as a common concern for all attending members and their jurisdictions. Members agreed to a joint effort to identify options for addressing safety concerns.

Existing Campaigns for heavy vehicle awareness include:

* + NHVR Don’t muck with a truck <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/dontmuckwithatruck>
  + WA Road train domain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXZvqiZyEbI>
  + WA iNSTRUCKTA! <https://transafewa.com.au/launch-of-transafe-was-safety-truck-instruckta/>

Oversize ex-Australian Defence Force (ADF) trailers

Some oversized ADF trailers sold in public auctions may not meet legislative vehicle standards or roadworthy requirements for registration and general road use. Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT) developed the V86 bulletin to assist operators in understanding compliance requirements for registration prior to purchase [V86 – Vehicle standards requirements for ex-Australian Defence Force vehicles](https://nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/435608/v86-vehicle-standards-requirements-for-ex-australian-defence-force-vehicles.pdf).

Road train commonality

Members discussed the commonalities in road trains access. Members agreed to a joint effort to review and harmonise road access requirements, where possible.

Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Review

The meeting noted all members are actively participating in the review. The National Transport Commission is currently analysing industry feedback.

Technology developments and impacts to mass limits

Heavy vehicle technology, particularly in relation to electric and alternative fuel heavy vehicles, is evolving quickly and is becoming a major road access policy issue in Australia. Developments in technology have seen an increase in mass limits of vehicles and axles. Members noted that technology developments and impacts on mass limits remain an active group discussion.

Table Member organisations in attendance 4 April 2023

|  | **Organisation** |
| --- | --- |
| **Chair and Secretariat** | Department of Transport & Main Roads (QLD) |
| **Northern Territory** | Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (NT) |
|  | Northern Territory Road Transport Association |
| **South Australia** | Department for Infrastructure and Transport (SA) |
|  | Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of SA |
|  | South Australian Road Transport Association |
| **Queensland** | Department of Transport & Main Roads (QLD) |
|  | Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of QLD |
|  | Queensland Trucking Association |
| **Western Australia** | Main Roads Western Australia |
|  | Livestock and Rural Transport Association of WA |
|  | Western Roads Federation |
| **National Bodies** | National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) |
|  | National Road Transport Association |
|  | Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) |
| **Observers** | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Cwth) |

Table RACG hosting roster

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |