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. Queensland Government - Department of Transport and Main Roads is the host for the 2023-2024 rotation.

The 19th Remote Areas Committee meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and in person on Thursday 14 September 2023.

Agreement to renew the Remote Areas Consultative Group Terms of Reference

Members unanimously agreed to the renewal of the terms of Reference without amendment.

TMR Chair will recirculate the current Terms of Reference and publish.

Driver Training Competency Working Group

Guest speaker Paul Davies Austroads provided members with an overview of the [Austroads Review of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework](https://austroads.com.au/drivers-and-vehicles/registration-and-licensing/heavy-vehicle-driver-competency-framework/c-ris).

A consultation RIS was published August 2022. Austroads received 250 submissions to the consultation RIS and is working with Jurisdictional licencing Authorities and ministers before a Decision RIS can be published.

RACG members agreed to await the outcome of the National Heavy Vehicle Driver Competency Framework Decision RIS, before reconvening the Driver training competency working group.

Road Train commonality

Members agreed to nominate to the Road Train commonality working group.

Zero emission vehicles

Hydrogen and Battery Electric (EVs) are an important step in Governments meet their Zero emission targets. RACG members discussed required energy supply and the need for transport companies to include renewable energy options to assist with charging source.

Industry members discussed the need to collate and track EVs fires, discussion was referred to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR).

All Jurisdictional Road Authorities were invited to discuss EV developments and cross border policy in a collaborative EV working group co-ordinated by TMR.

Disused truck tyres

Members discussed the disposal and recycling of heavy vehicle super single truck tyres.

Jurisdictional Road Authorities in QLD, SA, NT and WA will explore options for recycling of tyres in the respective state or territory, and TIC will explore options available in Europe provide. Updates on options will be provided to RACG Members.

NTRO shared the [Beyond Crumb Rubber: New innovations using recycled tyres in transport construction (ntro.org.au)](https://www.ntro.org.au/news/beyond-crumb-rubber).

Access continuity disaster working group

Members agreed to the creation of a working group for a collaboration on continuity of access in disaster response.

Discussion Papers, trials, and projects

* [Road and Rail Supply Chain Resilience Review](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/road-and-rail-supply-chain-resilience-review)
* [Review of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/news/review-national-freight-and-supply-chain-strategy-underway#:~:text=and%20transport%20ministers.-,The%20review%20of%20the%20National%20Freight%20and%20Supply%20Chain%20Strategy,of%20freight%20and%20supply%20chains.)
* [White Paper on Developing Northern Australia](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nawp-fullreport.pdf)
* [Road Train signage trial](https://www.mysaytransport.wa.gov.au/length-signs-on-trucks)
* [First on Scene HV Driver Remote Incident Training - Townsville](https://www.qta.com.au/events/first-scene-hv-driver-remote-incident-training-townsville-16-october)
* [Life line freight routes](https://austroads.com.au/latest-news/supporting-life-line-freight-routes#:~:text=%27Life%20Line%27%20freight%20routes%20are,traditional%20upgrade%20project%20priority%20assessments.)
* [Sustainability options for freight rail Recycled materials Interactive research report](https://3003125.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/3003125/Sustainability%20options%20for%20freight%20rail_research%20report-2.pdf)
* [Practical Approaches for Managing Regional Road Safety Priorities](https://austroads.com.au/publications/road-safety/ap-r691-23)

Table 1 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) |
| **Queensland** | Department of Transport & Main Roads (QLD) |
| Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of QLD |
| Queensland Trucking Association |
| **Western Australia** | Main Roads Western Australia |
| **National Bodies** | National Road Transport Association |
| National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO) |
| **Observers** | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Cwth) |

Table 2 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 |